

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Take me home!
08th of February

Priest's Tidings

What is striking in today's message is how much trust Christ puts in us, perhaps more than we do in him. He entrusts to us the mission of being his light shining in the world, the salt that preserves and spices the world with the aroma of the Gospel, the mission of being a city of light that attracts people to the Lord. What a responsibility! Today, let us ask Jesus to kindle his light in us. The Lord Jesus, the light of the world, gathers us together. May our faces reflect his light and may he always be with you.

Fr Hugo



Entrance Hymn:

676 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

Collect:

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

First Reading:

Reading from the book of Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 112

R./A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright;

he is generous, merciful, and righteous. It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. **R/**

He will never be moved; for ever shall the upright be remembered.

He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart, he trusts in the Lord **R/**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear Open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm for ever. His might shall be exalted in glory. **R/**

Second Reading:

Reading from the letter of 1 Corinthians

I, when I came to you, brothers and sisters, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my

message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

**This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn:

721- Love divine, all loves excelling, (8-Line tune)

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ**

Prayers of Intercession

R/ God of love and joy, hear us and refresh us.

Lord God, may we reveal your joy and power in our daily living. We ask your blessing upon the Church, that it may be obedient to your word and seek to bring others to know your glory. We ask you to bless all preachers and teachers of the faith, that they may have the power to reveal you and your love to others. **R/**

Lord, our Creator, we pray that we may use the world aright. Let us not squander or waste the resources you have given us but use them to your glory and the benefit of all. We pray for all who monitor our planet and its resources.

We ask your blessing upon scientists and politicians and all who work to care for and improve our world. We remember today all who suffer from deprivation, from poverty, from hunger or from homelessness. **R/**

We give thanks for our own home and all you have given us. We pray for those who provide us with our food and our daily needs. We ask your blessing upon all who work to provide good homes and shelter to the poor of our world. **R/**

We remember today all who are running out of resources. We pray for the fearful and the anxious, the sad and the lonely. We ask your blessing upon all who are ill and cannot cope on their own. We remember all who, through ageing or illness, need regular care and attention. We pray for all carers and all who work in the health service. **R/**

We rejoice in life and that you give us life eternal. Renewing and restoring God, we remember in your presence our loved ones departed and ask that they may rejoice in your presence and in the fullness of life eternal. We commend them, the world and ourselves to your unfailing love. **R/**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Offertory Hymn:

769 - Rejoice! The Lord is King,

Communion Hymn:

-236 - Breathe on me, Breath of God,,

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

Recessional

601-Blessed assurance,
Jesus is mine:

Prayer and Meditation

Lectio:

Matthew gathers Jesus' teachings into the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), drawing on lessons that circulated among early Christian communities. After the Beatitudes, Jesus uses three powerful images salt, light, and a city on a hill to describe how his followers should relate to the world.

In Jesus' time, salt was mainly used as a preservative, though today it is more commonly associated with flavour. Light was precious and essential, as artificial lighting was limited. Cities built on hills were visible and influential, symbolising guidance and leadership. Jesus uses humour and everyday experience such as the absurdity of hiding a lamp under a bowl to stress that disciples are meant to be seen.

The original Greek text makes Jesus' message even stronger: believers are not just like salt and light, but are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. This places a responsibility on Christians individually and collectively to preserve goodness, guide others, and live as visible examples in their communities. The ultimate purpose of this witness is to bring honour and praise to God.

Meditatio:

- Consider the three images Jesus uses of salt, light and a city on a hill. What can we learn from each about living out our faith in this world?
- The readings from Isaiah 58 and Psalm 112 give some practical examples of being salt and light. Consider whether, and how, you can put any of these into practice in your life.

Oratio:

Do you feel ready for the responsibility Jesus is laying upon you as his disciple? The apostle Paul felt no shame in laying bare his own fears and anxieties before God and us (1 Corinthians 2:1-8); we need not fear doing the same. So ask God to strengthen you and give you boldness to be salt and light for him in your family, at work and in your community.

What's happening in our Parish! **Sunday– Mass at 9:30 a.m**

Mission WhatsApp Groups

We have a series of WhatsApp groups with activities voted for by the congregation. Please have a look and see if you would like to join one: if you are already in one, please think of ways you can proactively help run the activity you have volunteered for.

Welcoming at our Eucharist

Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the

welcoming team! Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota

Regular Giving

Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's

Youth Club

Our Youth Club runs on Thursdays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE. All 14-18 year olds are welcome!

Bishop's Retirement

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, has announced he will retire on his 70th birthday in August 2026. We give thanks for his faithful ministry in our diocese and send him our prayers and good wishes for the next stage of his Christian pilgrimage

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