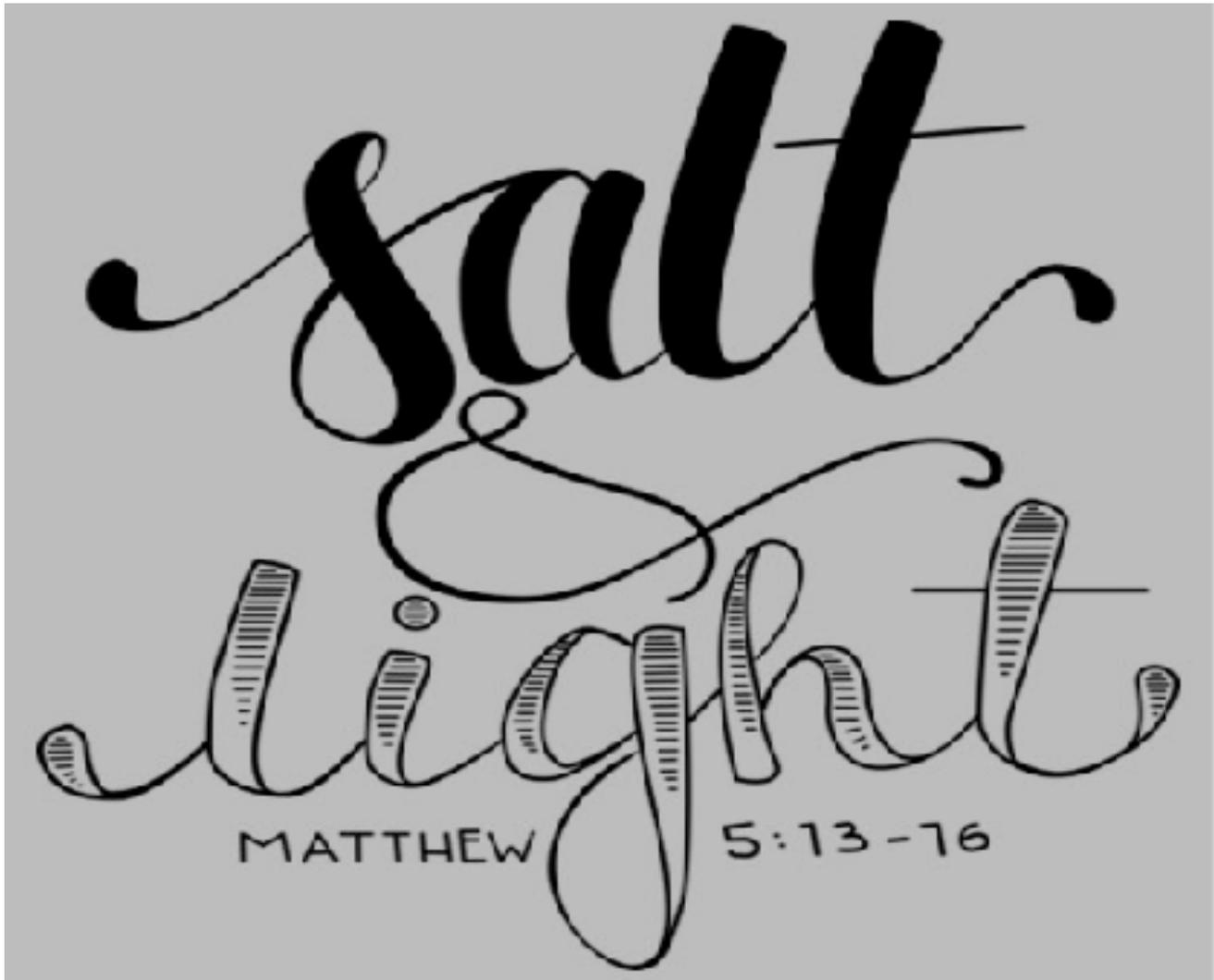


The Anglican Church of Australia
The Diocese of Wangaratta

5th February 2017
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



Hymns: 416, Pewsheet, 675, 687



Introit Hymn

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5.16*

THE COLLECT

Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be a light that shines in the world: let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58. 1-9a

[The people complain because God does not seem to notice when they fast and pray, but Isaiah speaks God's word that challenges them on their injustice and exploitation – that they have the appearance of penitence without a true change of heart.]

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

‘Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. “Why have we fasted,” they say, “and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?” ‘Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ‘Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 112

[Those who live righteously are compassionate, just and generous, and they have confidence that God will care for them.]

Response: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Response Gerry Fitzpatrick
v. 1a Bles - sed are those who fear the Lord.



Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments.
Their descendants will be mighty in the land,
a generation of the faithful that will be blest.
Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness endures for ever.
Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous./R
Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

It goes well with those who are generous in lending
and order their affairs with justice, for they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.
They will not be afraid of any evil tidings;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
Their heart is sustained and will not fear,
until they see the downfall of their foes./R

They have given freely to the poor;
their righteousness stands fast for ever;
their head will be exalted with honour.
The wicked shall see it and be angry;
they shall gnash their teeth in despair;
the desire of the wicked shall perish./R

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2. 1-13

[God's wisdom is Christ crucified, which cannot be understood without opening our spirits to God's Spirit. But, for we who have received God's Spirit, we are able to know and receive the wonderful blessing God offers us in Christ.]

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

Paul writes, 'So it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God

except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus says, I am the light | of the world;
whoever follows me will have the | light of life.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5. 13-20

[Jesus calls his followers to be as salt and light in the world – allowing our good works to be seen in order that others may praise God. Further, Jesus calls his followers to true righteousness, beyond the external legalism of the Pharisees, but embodying the true spirit of the law.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, 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 in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

God of all mercy, we give thank for your beautiful and bountiful creation that we call our home; we pray for all who work to protect it and keep us mindful of how easy it is to squander its resources.

God of light and hope: **hear our prayer.**

We continue our prayer for all people in areas of war; for all who suffer persecution and privation; for all who have responsibility of government in this and other lands, that corruption and exploitation be exposed and redressed; that compassion shatter the darkness of inhumanity; that humility conquer arrogance; and where there is

foolishness give wisdom; we pray for all impacted by the decisions of the US administration.

God of light and hope: **hear our prayer.**

God of all love, we give you thanks for all who sustain us with their love and care; for children and the families in which they are nurtured; for those children wounded by abuse, violence and neglect; may the light of Christ shine in their lives to bring promise of hope and healing, and we pray for all who exploit children and young people; and on this anniversary of Black Saturday we continue to pray for those dealing with the aftermath of bush fire and other disasters.

God of light and hope: **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we pray the Church be strong in its proclamation of the light and love of Christ to all; for all who tend to the affairs of the church; for John our Bishop; our parish that we may show forth the light of Christ in our lives so that others may be drawn to your ways of justice and peace.

God of light and hope: **hear our prayer.**

God of all compassion; we give thanks for all who lighten the burdens of others through their care and love; pray for all who live with pain grief loneliness and hopelessness, for the sick and those who care for them; in the darkness of pain bring comfort; where there is despair, give hope, where there is grief and sadness give consolation, and may we be a channel of your peace and love; we pray for all in need and in particular for those who have requested prayer;

Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Faye Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Sharon De Battista, Eunice Downie, Carey Bickoff, Lorraine Lipson, John Leonard, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe, Rosalia Bendastinto.

God of light and hope: **hear our prayer.**

God of all faithfulness, we give thanks for your faithful servants of every age; for the recently departed, for *Lisa Gaye Turner*; we remember all who died in the 2009 bush fires, and for those years mind occurring at this time.

5th Sal Winnell, Patricia Deuchar; 6th Charles Cunningham, Reginald Hearn; 9th Allie Morwood; 10th Henry Murray.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

God of light and hope: **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: you have made your home among; us hear us as pray for ourselves; may we in you find all life and holiness.

God of light and hope: **hear our prayer.**

We gather our prayers in the words our Lord taught us; **Our Father...**[pg. 124].

Reflections on the Readings

Too often, it seems there is a division between Christians who live with an experiential relationship with God, and those who are concerned to make a difference in the world, and who may, at times, seem not to be interested in

experiencing God's presence or power. It's like relationship with God and service of God are separate and disconnected things, and we need to choose to be either one or the other. Yet, this week's readings proclaim that both expressions of faith are one, and that those who seek an authentic spirituality must embrace both the experience of the divine and the call to work in the world. In truth no real impact can be made on the world without a vibrant, empowering relationship with God, and no real relationship with God can be found outside of engagement with the struggles and needs of our world. This raises the question, what then is authentic spirituality? In what ways do we know – and do others experience – that we have a real, vibrant relationship with God? These questions are raised by the readings. In Isaiah a contrast is drawn between the indulgent spirituality of the people, which leaves them disconnected from God and from God's purposes, with the result that they feel no answer from God when they fast and pray, and true fasting and prayer which are expressed in lives of justice and compassion. In the Psalm, those who live justly and righteously are celebrated, and are assured of God's care. In Paul's letter, we are reminded that God is not known by the usual means that the world tries to find life and goodness, but only in Christ crucified. It is as we open to God's Spirit that we receive God's presence and power, and that we receive "the mind of Christ" which will inevitably lead us into lives that emulate Christ's selfless service and sacrifice. In the continuation of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, we discover that true righteousness is not that of the Pharisees – legalistic, individualistic obedience to law – but is to be light and salt in the world, fulfilling the heart of the law by bringing life and goodness to others, and drawing them into healing and saving knowledge of God. Clearly, true spirituality is seen in a living, vibrant relationship with God through Christ, and by God's Spirit, which is then reflected and expressed through actions of compassion, justice and service in the world. If we live this kind of spirituality, it will inevitably draw others to this God we serve – and that's a huge bonus for us!

Adapted from John van de Laar (2017); www.sacredise.com

Salt and Light are Found in Me [Tune 212 –Heathlands]

1. You are the salt of the earth;
but if your life has become
tasteless, it has lost its worth.
Can you be sure of welcome
in God's kingdom as it nears—
when the Son of Man appears?

2. We are God's light in this place.
A city set on a height
cannot hide the light of grace,
but shines forth with God's true light.
Let your light shine now that then,
people praise God in heaven.

3. I have come to fulfill all
the Law and the Prophets stress.
No matter if it seems small;
it is mandate nonetheless.
Now "it's finished"; can't you see?
Salt and light are found in me.

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Notices

Social Justice Symposium Saturday 11th February 12.30pm - 3pm Holy Trinity Wangaratta - Keynote Speaker Revd Canon Dr Ray Cleary. Register with Revd David Jones 0418 526 3013 or djones@catherdracollege.vic.edu.au.

Induction of Revd Maryann Leonard as Priest in Charge of Parish of Cobram and Chaplain to Cobram Anglican Grammar School at St Margarets Cobram, 11am Friday 17th February 2017. A bus will leave Christ Church at 7.30am, St Matthews at 7.45am and St Stephens at 8am. Cost \$15.00 per person. Please book with John Patterson 5784 3284.

The Chamber Philamonia of Cologne Concert St Matthews, Broadford 7.30pm Sunday 17th February - Bookings close 8th February with Robyn Whitehouse 5781 1185 - leave a message re number of tickets (\$35 Adult; \$30 Concession; \$25 Child/Student), your name & phone number. There will be wine and cheeses offered before the concert and an after-concert supper. Tickets are \$10 for wine and cheeses; \$10 for supper or \$15 for both. Please book extras with Robyn. Tickets can also be bought through www.trybooking.com/NYBZ or www.trybooking.com/244763, or at the door on the night.

Farewell Gift for Rev'd Maryann and John - Contributions towards this gift are requested - please give your donation to one of the parish wardens or place it in the offertory plate in a marked envelope.

Monthly Parish BBQ's commence 12 March. Hosts are needed for this year. April has been filled - please contact one of the wardens or Fr Kim.

Lenten Study 2017 - This Lent we will use familiar Lenten themes to explore how Christian faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions. There are five sessions in the series - please let Fr Kim know if you wish to attend.

Request for prayer list - the list is to be reviewed for next Sunday and names will be removed unless requests are received to keep names on the list. A person must have given consent for any name to be listed. Please inform Fr Kim or the Wardens.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings - Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please change your bank details when making offerings.

Parish Diary

1st Wed of the month: Building and Maintenance Committee Meeting
7.30pm at Gavan Hall - currently suspended

2nd Sunday of month: Parish BBQ - 12.30pm. See Notices for details

3rd Tues of the month: St Matthew's Friendship Group; Gavan Hall 1.30pm
fellowship & afternoon tea; contact Edie Simpson ph.
5784 1246 for details.

3rd Wed of the month: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm venue TBA

Parish life this week

Thursday 9th	10.00am Eucharist St Matthews Candlemas 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade 4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 10th	10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 11th	10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop Church House 11.00am Social Justice Committee meeting Wangaratta 12.30pm - 3pm Social Justice Symposium Holy Trinity Wangaratta

Next Sunday: 12th February 2017 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 10.12-22; Ps 119.1-8; I Corinthians 3.1-9; Matthew 5.21-37

Christ Church at Senior Citizens Club	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day



Parish Clergy:

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764; Ph 5782 1155
m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett Street Broadford 3658 Ph 5784 2224

PO Box 289 Kilmore 3764 www.anglicankilmore.org.au

Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning