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**5th Sunday after Epiphany February 5, 2023 Video**

*Good morning. This is Richfield Lutheran Church’s video worship service for Sunday, February 5. I’m Pastor Brian, with me today are Paul on the organ and Mary as our vocalist. The printed bulletin for this service can be found on our website, Richfield-Lutheran.org.*

*Our gospel is Matthew 5:13-20.*  *In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

**I. GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Gathering song** *Gather Us In* **# 532, vv 1-2**

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,

 now is the darkness vanished away;

 see in this space our fears and our dreamings

 brought here to you in the light of this day.

 Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,

 gather us in, the blind and the lame;

 call to us now, and we shall awaken,

 we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,

 we are the old who yearn for your face;

 we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,

 called to be light to the whole human race.

 Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,

 gather us in, the proud and the strong;

 give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,

 give us the courage to enter the song.

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**II. WORD**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20.** *(*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God’s commandments.*)*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: 13“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? I t is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.
 14“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.  15No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16In 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.
 17“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.  18For 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.  19Therefore, 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.  20For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *Salt*  Pr Brian

**Hymn of the Day** *Christ, Be Our Light* **# 715, vv 1-2**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

**Prayers of the People**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way…. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*(A brief silence.)*

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

**III. THANKSGIVING**

**Offering**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today via our website: Richfield-Lutheran.org/give. Thank you for your faithful generosity.*

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*On Sunday, February 5, in addition to this video recording and its phone-in option, we have in-person worship at 9:30, and we celebrate Holy Communion. All are welcome.*

*Next Sunday, February 12, our gospel reading is Matthew 5:21-37.* In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

*Until then, go forth with God’s blessing.*

**Blessing**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod ☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *Thy Strong Word*  **# 511, vv 1-2**

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;

 at thy speaking it was done.

 For created light we thank thee,

 while thine ordered seasons run.

 Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Praise to thee who light dost send!

 Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Alleluia without end!

2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,

 dark as night and deep as death,

 broke the light of thy salvation,

 breathed thine own life-breathing breath.

 Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Praise to thee who light dost send!

 Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Alleluia without end!

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**This Week’s Daily Bible Readings:**

Monday, February 6. 2 Kings 22:3-20

Tuesday, February 7. Psalm 119:105-112

Wednesday, February 8. John 8:12-30

Thursday, Feb 9. Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Friday, February 10. Psalm 119:1-8

Saturday, Feb 11. 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

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