

FEBRUARY 8, 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

*The power of knowing Christ crucified.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Galatians 2:15-21	Everyone is saved by faith
Thursday	1 Peter 2:18-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Christ is God's power and wisdom
Saturday	Psalm 112:1-10	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

**1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, help us to see that through the cross of Christ we are made your people and to be the salt of the earth to share your saving work with others. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of your generosity and your desire for us to provide food for the needy. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with trust in God.



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## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Us Ever Walk with  
Jesus*



## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you helped someone go through a sad time?
- Being forgiven can look like weakness. How is Jesus' death on the cross a powerful gift to the life of the church?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.*

Paul contrasts the strength and wisdom of the world with the strength and wisdom of God. What is most important is knowing "Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" because it is "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). The Corinthians are fixated on their spiritual gifts and special wisdom, but that only divides the community. Paul wants to unite the community as the body of Christ in the world. Spiritual gifts are all based on the work of God, not on people's own spiritual powers. Therefore, Christians are not to get caught up on who has the "better" spiritual gifts. What does matter is to know that the uniqueness of the spiritual life is to see everything through the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the true wisdom and strength that gives faith, hope, and love to a world in need.

*Discuss: How does seeing the world through the cross of Christ help you as a follower of Jesus?*

*Pray: God of wisdom and might, give us faith to see in the cross of Christ your healing and redeeming work in the world. Amen.*

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show love and hope to those who are hungry or homeless?

## RITEUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus calls his followers the "salt of the earth and the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). When gathered with friends and family in your home, give a candle to each person. As a candle lighting ritual, light one another's candles in turn either by using a lighter or passing a flame from candle to candle. As each candle is lit, say: "***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)