

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

February 5, 2017

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

*Isaiah 58:1-9a*

*Psalms 112:1-9*

*I Corinthians 2:1-12*

*Matthew 5:13-20*



**The Salt of the Earth.** *Object: Several samples of crackers, salted and unsalted.*

This morning we are going to do a taste test. You will taste two different types of crackers, and you will share which one you liked the best.

Taste these crackers and tell me which one you liked best. The cracker that taste best is actually called a saltine. Why do you think it is called a saltine? You are right, it is because it has salt sprinkled on top. The other cracker doesn't have salt. Do you know what else it doesn't have? Taste! The cracker really needs the salt to give it a good flavor.

I'm sure you all know that many foods taste much better with a little salt. It doesn't take much. In fact, when you are cooking, a recipe often calls for "a pinch of salt." Not much, just a pinch, but that little pinch of salt makes a big difference in the flavor.

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth." What do you think that means? I think Jesus means that he wants us to improve the quality of life of those we meet each day. How can we do that?

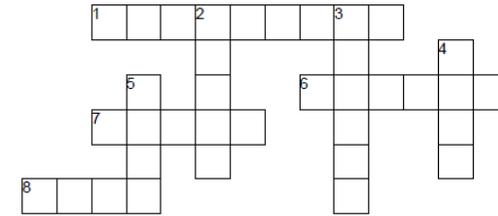
There is a lot of hatred and bitterness in our world today. If you and I will show the love of Jesus in all that we do, we can be the salt of the earth like Jesus called us to be. Just a pinch of salt can do much to reduce bitterness and bring peace to our world.

Heavenly Father, our prayer is that we may be the salt of the earth by showing the love of Jesus in all that we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia (John 8:12)

## Crossword Puzzle



**ACROSS**

1. Has no value
6. The way a food or drink is recognized from its taste
7. The planet we live on
8. Unable to be found

**DOWN**

2. To eat or drink a small amount of something.
3. Having a taste of salt
4. Not bad
5. A white mineral compound used to season food

EARTH	WORTHLESS	FLAVOR	LOST
SALT	SALTLY	GOOD	TASTE

**PAPER BAG PUPPET:** Give the child a paper bag to color and decorate to look like themselves. Next, add a thin layer of glue and sprinkle salt on the top of their bag. Finally, the child will write their name on the bag and write, "I AM CALLED TO BE THE SALT OF THE EARTH."

**SALTY WORLD:** Give the child a picture of a world globe. Let the child color their world picture. Then let them spread a thin layer of glue on their globe and sprinkle salt on the world. Talk about how we can be salt to the world.



YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

MATTHEW 5:13

