

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

February 8, 2026

“Light on a Hill”

Isaiah 58:1-9; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12;
Matthew 5:13-20

Today's Big Idea

Jesus calls us to be the light of the world, shining by virtue of our good works. How are to go about shining? What does shining consist of?

Articulating the thread: Being the Light of the World

Your light shall break forth like the dawn: Isaiah 58:8

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright: Psalm 112:4

Demonstration of the Spirit: 1 Corinthians 2:4

You are the light of the world: Matthew 5:13-16

The Problem of Trying to Shine

The Sermon on the Mount Tension Matthew 5:16 and 6:1

Not hiding a shining light versus trying to generate a light

The difference between acting and being (Matthew 23:3)

Performing good works: inauthenticity, self-promotion, hypocrisy, toxic charity

Off-stage intentional acts (disciplines, practices) shape being

The fear of the Lord and delight in His ways: Psalm 112:1

The practice session and game time: shining is when the pressure is on

The True Fuel

Advocacy for the vulnerable: Isaiah 58:

Humility & Self-emptying: Phil 2:3

The metaphor of the candle becomes clear

The paradox of the kingdom: my decrease, His increase: John 3:30

The Fuel Behind the Fuel

Soap and Candle

We have to be made into fuel

Intentional practices don't change us, they open us

The sap in the branch: John 15:4-5

Our weakness is a stage (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Permission to be real

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread:

“Light on a Hill”

<i>Isaiah 58:1-9</i>	<i>Psalms 112:1-9</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 2:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 5:13-20</i>
<p>3 “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. 4 You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. 6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 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 them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? 8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.</p>	<p>Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments. 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. 4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. 5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. 6 For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. 7 They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord. 8 Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. 9 They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.</p>	<p>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4 My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. 9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—10 God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.</p>	<p>13 “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. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 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. 19 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. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.</p>

Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern?

February 15, 2026 - Transfiguration Sunday - Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9