

March 15, 2023

## Light Shining in the Darkness

### As We Gather

“Let there be light,” God said (Genesis 1:3). And there was light.

Through the promised treasure of His Word, God keeps speaking to us. And because He does, there is light. Light from above! Light never-ending! Light that enlightens our way to life everlasting! Jesus Christ is this “light of the world” (John 8:12), the light no darkness can overcome. By His Word and Spirit, this light breaks through again today, enters our lives, and enables us to shine brightly for Him.

### ↑ Evening Prayer - Service of Light

**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

**C** **and the day is almost over.**

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness

**C** **and illumine Your Church.**

**P** Joyous light of glory of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.

**C** **We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light.**

**P** We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

**C** **O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.**

**P** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

**C** **Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

**P** For You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise (891 O Light Whose Splendor)

1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens  
With radiance brighter than the sun,

Pure gleam of God's unending glory,  
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;

2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,  
And lamps are lit, and children nod,  
In evening hymns we lift our voices  
To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.

3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,  
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,  
O Son of God, our Life-bestower,  
Whose glory lightens endless days.

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Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944

## Introit

*2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5*

**P** For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,  
**C** so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.  
**P** But He was wounded for our transgressions;  
**C** He was crushed for our iniquities;  
**P** upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
**C** and with His stripes we are healed.

## Confession of Sins

*Based on Philippians 2:1–11*

**MEN:** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of  
heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned  
in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my  
own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to  
have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to  
everlasting life. Amen.

**WOMEN:** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon,  
forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**MEN:** Amen.

**WOMEN:** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of  
heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in  
thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own  
most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy  
on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.  
Amen.

**MEN:** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon,  
forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**WOMEN:** Amen.

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray. (*A time of silence for personal prayer is kept.*)

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world, and no amount of darkness in our world can overcome Your presence shining in our lives.

**C** Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;

**P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## ↓ 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Public domain

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 1:1–5*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, the first chapter.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the

darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

*Psalm 27:1–4, 13–14*

**P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**C** The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**P** When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

**C** Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

**P** One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

**C** to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

**P** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

**C** Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 5:1–2, 8–14*

**P** The Epistle is from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>8</sup>At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**↑ Verse: (422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image)**

**C** On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt. Public domain

**Holy Gospel**

*John 8:12–18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup>Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

<sup>13</sup>So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.”

<sup>14</sup>Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup>You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. <sup>16</sup>Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. <sup>17</sup>In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. <sup>18</sup>I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**537 Beautiful Savior**

**1** Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

**2** Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

**3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904 Public domain

## Sermon

## Presentation of the Offering

**↑ Prayers (780 O Lord, Hear My Prayer)**

**☐ O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;  
When I call answer me.**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;  
Come and listen to me. (*Repeat*)**

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**☐ Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for  
blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of  
Christ and receive Your promised treasures.**

**☐ Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our  
salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**

**☐ Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden,  
that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,**

**☐ that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be  
forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

**☐ Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the  
treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer  
to You.**

**☐ Enable us to walk in the light of Your grace, knowing that You  
are truly the light of the world that darkness can never  
overcome.**

- P** Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, . . . , and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.
- C** All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Luther's Evening Prayer

- P** In the Name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray:
- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father,  
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,  
that You have graciously kept me this day;  
and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins  
where I have done wrong,  
and graciously keep me this night.  
For into Your hands I commend myself,  
my body and soul, and all things.  
Let Your holy angel be with me,  
that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.

## **Closing Hymn: 880 Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow**

- 1 Now rest beneath night's shadow The woodland, field, and meadow;  
The world in slumber lies.  
But you, my heart, awaking And prayer and music making,  
Let praise to your Creator rise.**
- 2 The radiant sun has vanished, Its golden rays are banished  
From dark'ning skies of night;  
But Christ, the Sun of gladness, Dispelling all our sadness,  
Shines down on us in warmest light.**
- 3 Now all the heav'nly splendor Breaks forth in starlight tender  
From myriad worlds unknown;  
And we, this marvel seeing, Forget our selfish being  
For joy of beauty not our own.**
- 4 Lord Jesus, since You love me, Now spread Your wings above me  
And shield me from alarm.  
Though Satan would devour me, Let angel guards sing o'er me:  
This child of God shall meet no harm.**
- 5 My loved ones, rest securely, For God this night will surely  
From peril guard your heads.  
Sweet slumbers may He send you And bid His hosts attend you  
And through the night watch o'er your beds.**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Public domain

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