

Look with the Light

It's said that darkness is nothing more than the absence of light. Darkness and blindness are words often used throughout Scripture to describe our sinfulness—the absence of the true Light. In our continued Lenten journey, we prepare our hearts for the dark afternoon of Good Friday at the cross. Yet even in that darkness, Jesus Christ brings the light of life. In our times of spiritual blindness and comfort in the darkness of this world, we gather again today to see His light through our vision of Spirit-given faith, that our eyes may look to Him who is the light of the world—the light no darkness can overcome.

Open Welcome and Announcements

We Call Upon the Name of the Lord

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 42:5–7

P Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

C who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

P “I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

C to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.”

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Tune of LSB 700

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

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Call for Confession

Joel 2:13; Isaiah 42:16

P In the darkness of the world around us and amid our own blindness to His will and ways, God calls us to confess our sins.

C Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P God of God, Light of light,

C we confess that by nature we are sinful and unclean, born in darkness. We are often blind to Your Word and Your work in our lives, sinning against You and against one another in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of Jesus, who is the light of the world, forgive me all my sins, that my eyes may be opened and my heart enlightened to look to You in faith and hope.

P “And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.”

Lord Have Mercy

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

God Forgives Our Sins

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Through His death on the cross, Jesus Christ has shined His eternal light of forgiveness, peace, and life on you. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ as a servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Tune of LSB 700

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

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Greeting

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we remain in darkness without Your light, and we walk in blindness if You do not lead. Even in our times of comfort in the darkness and times of willful blindness, You shine Your light of truth and call us Your children of light that we may see and live in Your grace. Help us to acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for all Your blessings, and with eyes of faith look to You always that we serve You and others in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Announcement of the Day

P The Lent season is one of repentance and renewal, and today through God's Word we recognize the times of sinful darkness and spiritual blindness. Isaiah identifies the blindness that is not of the eyes but of the heart. Paul reminds us of the light that exposes our sin, but the greater call is to walk in the light of Christ. In the Holy Gospel, a man blind from birth is healed by Jesus but experiences an even greater sight of light away from the darkness of unbelief. In this season of Lent, even in times of darkness, we continue to follow Christ to the cross as we hear His Word and rejoice in His light of truth.

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

God Speaks to Us Through His Prophet

Isaiah 42:14–21

For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant.
I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.
And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.
They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!
Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD?
He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.
The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Apostle

Ephesians 5:8–14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27

Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

C 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, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

C And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to 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.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

John 9:1–41

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Tune of LSB 436

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise; Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine, Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

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God Speaks to Us Through Our Pastor: "Karma or Grace?"

John 9:1-41

Creed Hymn: Great God, Our Creator

Tune of LSB 802

- 1 Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive
Their being and blessing, in You we believe.
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all true,
Provider and Father, our trust is in You.
- 2 And You, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,
True Son of the Father, by angels adored;
Redeemer incarnate, You paid for our sins,
And, joined in Your rising, our new life begins.
- 3 Free Spirit of wisdom, of power and love,
On us, as on Christ, You descend from above;
You call us, You cleanse us, You open our eyes,
You keep us in peace, You restore paradise.

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Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Gracious Lord, shine Your light of mercy and grace into our darkened hearts of sin and eyes blinded to Your will and ways,
so that we know the fullness of Your forgiveness, life, and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Healing Lord, shine Your light of peace and healing to all who seek relief, for the sick and dying, for those troubled
physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and for the grieving and the dying, that Your comfort be known, [*especially* .
. .]. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Defended by Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to provide us with good and faithful leaders who will preserve the precious
gift of liberty and protect the lives of our citizens. Give them special wisdom, and help them to work in harmony in the midst
of this pandemic. Bless the members of our armed forces, and protect them as they defend us. Grant Your blessing to all
emergency and medical workers who continue to come to our aid in times of great need. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Lord of the Church, shine Your light upon all You have enabled to speak and proclaim Your Word. Be with our
congregation, especially at this time that we are not able to worship together in one place, that we remain united in truth,
love, faith, and service. Give courage to live as Your witnesses, that many who remain in darkness rejoice in the light of
truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Enjoying the riches of Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to give us generous hearts, that we may share what You have
provided with those in need and work for the common good of all. Give us patience in our seclusion, and comfort the lonely.
Grant relief to the unemployed, the underemployed, the homeless and all their families. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Now, O Lord, we pray together the prayer that Your Son, Jesus Christ, taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

We Worship God with Our Offerings

(Although we are not "passing the plate" at this time, you still have the opportunity to give your offering in two different ways. The easiest and most secure way is to go to our website and give a one-time or recurring offering. Or you can mail a check to the Church Office, attention "Financial Secretary." For your health and that of the staff, there is no need to come by the office just to leave a check. Psalm 54:6; 116:12-14, 17)

Benediction

- P** At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
- C** I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
- P** The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
- C** I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground.
- P** The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

801 How Great Thou Art

LSB 801

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; Refrain
- ref Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain
- 3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" Refrain

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Sending: Living Savior Lutheran Church Mission statement

- P** As we continue this day, let us remember our mission is...
- C** Making an eternal impact today through the love of Jesus Christ.

Acknowledgments

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