

Jesus, Light for the Nations

God Light in
Unexpected Places
Isaiah 9:1-4



ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE
JANUARY 22, 2023 - 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today! We celebrate together God's work in our lives as we receive His Word and Sacraments to strengthen our relationship with Him and one another. By the blood of Christ, we are made the household of God. Here, God builds us up by grace, through faith, and for service!

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

Jesus, Light for the Nations

Everyone needs light. It is a necessary part to our survival. It is beautiful and necessary all at once. It is no coincidence that Jesus is called the "Light for the nations." He is the One that has brought the light of life into a world of darkness and death. He is the necessary part to our eternal survival, and He has come for all people. The Scriptures make that abundantly clear, and the prophet Isaiah especially highlights the message of God's mission for the world as that would be fulfilled in Jesus. There is no other way than Jesus and that is good news! The question is, what does life look like in this light? And how is God using us to shine the light of Christ for others? Join us for our new sermon series as we continue to follow Jesus in the light for all people!

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

Bell Paean – D. Hakes

Heavenly Handbells

GREETING

❖ **INVOCATION**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

❖ CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

P For great is His Steadfast Love toward us,
C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.** *Psalm 117:2*

P How precious is Your Steadfast Love, O God!
C **The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your Wings.** *Psalm 36:7*

P In the midst of darkness, gloom, and sin, our God calls to us with the light of His Salvation. Let us come to Him in repentance and faith to receive His Gifts of forgiveness, light, and life.

C **Almighty God, we come before You confessing our sin of choosing ways that lead away from You, ways that lead to darkness and death. As You have sent Your Son into our darkness to bear our sin and to be our Savior, show us the light of Your Salvation, give to us Your Forgiveness, and lead us in the way of forgiveness and life; for the Sake of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**

P Jesus Christ, the light of the world, opens heaven before us and brings us life again. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

❖ HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People

LSB 825

1. Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, With grace unbounded.

2. See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, Now are forgiven.

3. Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story Of Jesus' glory.

**4. Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation His new creation.**

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❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You have been our Creator from the moment of conception, shaping our bodies in flesh and bone, formulating our minds in wisdom and strength, and redeeming our souls with Your Holy and precious Word.

C **Remove from our hearts grievous faults, and refresh us with the knowledge that You are the Lord of all life, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9:1-4 [ESV]

(The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.)

9 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish.

In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 27:1-14 [ESV]

(The heavens declare the glory of the Lord.)

L **27** 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?**

L ²When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
C **my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

L ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
C **though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

L ⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
C 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.**

L ⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
C **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;**
C **he will lift me high upon a rock.**

L ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
C and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
C **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

L ⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
C **be gracious to me and answer me!**

L ⁸You have said, "Seek my face."
C **My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."**

L ⁹Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger,
C O you who have been my help.
C **Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!**

L ¹⁰For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
C **but the LORD will take me in.**

L ¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD,
C **and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.**

L ¹²Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
C **for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.**

L ¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
C ¹⁴**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 ever shall be. Amen.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 [ESV]

(The message of the cross is the Power of God.)

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul,"
or "I follow Apollos,"
or "I follow Cephas,"
or "I follow Christ."

¹³Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you?

Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.

¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ VERSE

C Alleluia. Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men! Alleluia. (*Matthew 4:19*)

❖ HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12–25 [ESV]

(*Follow Me.*)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.

¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,

¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region
and shadow of death,

on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying,

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

¹⁹ And he said to them,

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.

²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.

²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, Lord Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosie Spangenberg

HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

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.

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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SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

God Light in Unexpected Places
Isaiah 9:1-4

(For an outline of the sermon, see page 13 of this worship folder.)

❖ CREED

MARTIN LUTHER'S EXPLANATION TO THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He

richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true. (c) 1986 Concordia Publishing House

❖ GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3)

Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God’s people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

My Lord, What a Mornin’ – arr. H. Morris

Heavenly Handbells

❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Father in Heaven, thank You for Your Spirit’s Gift of faith enabling us to receive Forgiveness, Life, and Salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C Help us live in faith every day.

P Thank You for the gift of life.

C Help us live in faith every day honoring and speaking up for the value You give to life.

P Thank You for instituting marriage between a man and a woman so that they might complement one another, reflect Your Relationship with us in Christ, and be the context for Your ongoing procreation of life.

C Help us live in faith every day honoring our spouses and Your Gift of marriage.

P Thank You, Father, for purifying us in Jesus through the waters of Holy Baptism.

C Help us live in faith every day making good decisions and being pure in thought, word, and deed.

P Thank You for Your rich and daily Forgiveness for all believers.

C Help us live in faith every day confessing our sins of impurity and trusting in Your Mercy and Grace and the strength to strive again for purity.

P Thank You, Lord, for the opportunities You provide to give witness to Your Truth and bring our influence to bear upon our culture.

C Help us live in faith every day boldly sharing Your Truth in words spoken in love and in deeds performed in mercy.

P Thank you for the work You do through Lutherans For Life.

C May You continue to bless them so that they might continue to equip us to live in faith every day and be Gospel-motivated voices for life.

ADDITIONAL INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Dearest Father, cause us to respect all that You make, to care for all people, and to celebrate the life that shines through the deepest darkness, undimmed and eternal. Into Your Hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Jesus, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

❖ 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;**

C 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.

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24-26)*
C Amen.

❖ **HYMN**

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

LSB 411

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.
Refrain

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.
Refrain

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P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Festal Postlude - Gounod

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Acknowledgments

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Servants in Worship

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
 Presiding Minister.....Rev. Zach Sarrault
 Organist/Pianist/Director.....Ashley Huddle
 Heavenly Handbells
 Assisting Minister.....Rosie Spangenberg
 Lector.....Bill Xenakis
 Camera Operator.....Jill Hammergren
 Live Stream Producer.....Susan Moore



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God's Light in Unexpected Places (Isaiah 9:1-4)
Third Sunday after the Epiphany: January 21 & 22, 2023

What is it about fear that makes us give up on anything good ever happening when life throws us curveballs? When we're in a dark place, there are times we may feel one step away from ever expecting the light to shine again. Today, we give thanks that God's light shines in life's most *unexpected* places!

1. **Light that shines in the darkness (verse 2) is God's promise to us on this _____ of _____.** "Darkness" in God's Word does not only refer to circumstances that may hinder our actions and ability to plan for the future. It describes situations of real danger as well as our perceptions of the world that lead to anxiety or despair. Isaiah shows us that at times truly seeing the darkness for what it truly is is just what we need!
2. "The people WALKING in darkness...have seen a great light." **We might not be staring down an _____ and tempted to make peace with them, as some of Isaiah's first listeners were; but our _____ the _____ is ever present.** Bussing ourselves to find earthly solutions to God-sized problems may work for a while. But sooner or later, everyone who keeps walking in the dark will stumble.
3. "Those DWELLING in a land of gloom...for them a light has dawned." **We might not live in _____ or among the _____ and _____ of Galilee (9:1), but we may indeed find ourselves in a "place" that makes us feel powerless and frozen today.** Just when life circumstances close in on us and there seems to be no way out is exactly when we are called to look up and see the true light dawning!
4. Love is God's unexpected answer! **God's _____ for _____—which we have done _____ to earn or deserve—has "increased [our] joy" (9:3)!** God's unexpected love is gifted to us like light shining in the last place you'd ever expect! That love for us is where our love for those who are "undeserving" shines light in a dark world. Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's promise: the yoke of sin and death is broken. The Enemy is defeated. Wherever we might find ourselves today...whatever darkness life might bring...the light of God's love shines. We *treasure* life together.