

Jesus, Light for the Nations

God Light in
Unexpected Places

Isaiah 9:1-4



Third Sunday After the Epiphany
January 22, 2023 - 11:00 am

A warm welcome to all worshiping 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!

Welcome and Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the LORD be with you!
C And also with you!

Opening Song

Here I Am To Worship

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You

Refrain
So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, O so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created;
all for love's sake became poor Refrain

And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross Sing 4x Refrain Sing 2x

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Invocation of The Holy Trinity

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

P Let us begin our worship in the Name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession of Sins and Good News of God's Forgiveness

P If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Will and walk in Your Ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His Mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His Sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His Authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Song of Praise

Give Us Clean Hands

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees,
o Spirit, come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things,
o LORD, we cast down our idols

Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts,
Let us not lift our souls to another Sing 2x

And o God, let us be a generation that seeks,
that seeks Your face, o God of Jacob Sing 2x

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Old Testament Prophecy

Isaiah 9:1-4 [ESV]

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

Psalm 27:1-14 [ESV]

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:

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;**

he will lift me high upon a rock.

L ⁶And 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;

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,
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 ¹³ I 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]

¹⁰ I 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. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so 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.) ¹⁷ For 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. ¹⁸ For 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.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:12-25 [ESV]

- 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, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Rosie Spangenberg

Song of the Day

You Are So Good To Me

You are so good to me,
You heal my broken heart;
You are my Father in heaven Sing 2x

Refrain

You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song;
You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song;
You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song;
I will sing again, I will sing again

You ride upon the clouds,
You lead me to the truth;
You are the Spirit inside me Sing 2x Refrain

You are my strong melody, You are my dancing rhythm;
You are my perfect rhyme and I want to sing forever

You poured out all Your blood,
You died upon the cross;
You are my Jesus who loves me Sing 2x Refrain

You are my Father in heaven,
You are the Spirit inside me,
You are my Jesus who loves me Sing 2x

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The Message

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

God Light in Unexpected Places

Isaiah 9:1-4

Sermon Notes on Page 10

Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 Maker of Heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.
 And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,**

begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into Heaven
and sits at the Right Hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
whose Kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the ✠ Life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

after each petition:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

The 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.

Distribution of Sacrament of Holy Communion

Distribution Song

Lamb of God

O holy LORD,
Lamb of God,
You take away
the sin of the world Sing x2

Have mercy on me,
Have mercy on me,
Have mercy on me

O holy LORD,
Lamb of God,
You take away
the sin of the world Sing x2

Have mercy on me,
Have mercy on me,
Have mercy on me

O holy LORD,
Lamb of God,
You take away
the sin of the world Sing x2

Grant us Your peace,
Grant us Your peace,
Grant us Your peace

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Benediction

Closing Song

Forever

Give thanks to the LORD, our God and King;
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things;
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn,
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise,
Sing praise, sing praise

Refrain

Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,
forever God is with us, forever, forever!

From the rising to the setting sun,
His love endures forever
and by the grace of God we will carry on;
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise,
Sing praise, sing praise Refrain Sing 2x

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P The worship has ended.

C **The service now begins.**

P Go now in peace to serve the LORD.

C **Thanks be to God!**

+ +

In Service Today

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke

Presiding Minister – Rev. Zach Sarrault

Reign! Vocals - Randy Leach, Sharon Hahne

Reign! Musicians - Nick Cassimatis, Doug Durnbaugh, Charlie Shiel, Lecia Cecconi-Roberts

Reader - Mike Persson

Sound Technician - Jason Piontek

Video Technician - Tom Campau

Camera Operator - Garrett Nigg

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.** Busying 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.