

JESUS said:



I  
am  
the  
Light  
of the  
World.  
John 8:12

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

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Daniel Bohlken, Interim Pastor

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 26, 2022

### OUR WORSHIP

*Not Seeing and Seeing*

**SERVICE THEME** The major misunderstanding Christians in the Church have is the same one the Pharisees display in our Gospel Reading: thinking of the light of the Law as the LIGHT which only the Servant of the LORD, the Messiah, can give us through His death and resurrection, so that we are freed from our personal prisons and released from our self-indulgent dungeons.

#### + Preparing Ourselves to Hear God's Word +

**RESPONSIVE PSALM READING** Psalm 119:105, 129-133; Proverbs 6:23

Pastor: Your word is a lamp for my feet,

**People: a light on my path.**

Pastor: Your statutes are wonderful;

**People: therefore I obey them.**

Pastor: The unfolding of Your words gives light;

**People: it gives understanding to the simple.**

Pastor: I open my mouth and pant,

**People: longing for Your commands.**

Pastor: Turn to me and have mercy on me,

**People: as You always do to those who love Your name.**

Pastor: Direct my footsteps according to Your word;

**People: let no sin rule over me.**

Pastor: For this command is a lamp,

**People: this teaching is a light,**

Pastor: and correction and instruction

**People: are the way to life.**

**Pastor and People: As people Baptized into the name of God, we proclaim,  
“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!**

**RESPONSE** *All God’s People Sing 247* “Thy Word is a Lamp”

***Refrain***

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.***

**When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,  
Still You’re there right beside me,  
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end.**

***Refrain***

**I will not forget Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side,  
And I will love You to the end.**

***Refrain***

**CONFESSIONAL PRAYER**

Pastor: Father, thank You for Your Word of Law as a light, guiding my daily walk, telling me how life in this world works best. More importantly, Father, thank You for sending Your Son into our world as the Light of this world that gives us real and eternal LIFE, that is, LIFE that only You can give us through His death and resurrection. Please, Father, don’t allow us to confuse these two and think Your Law is the source of real and eternal LIFE when, in reality, it can only guide our daily walk, that is, give us life in this world.

**People: We ask in Your dear Son’s name, the Same who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN!**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 42:5-7

<sup>5</sup> This is what God the LORD says – the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: <sup>6</sup> “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of Your hand. I will keep You and will make You to be a covenant for the people and a LIGHT for the Gentiles, <sup>7</sup> to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

**EPISTLE READING** 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

<sup>4</sup>The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as LORD, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness, "made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

People: These Readings are the Word of our LORD Jesus.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL READING** John 9:39-41

Pastor: The Holy Gospel is recorded in the Gospel of John,  
the disciple whom Jesus loved:

People: Glory be to You, O LORD Jesus.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with Him heard Him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** "Blind as a Coal Mining Mule"

**MESSAGE HYMN** LSB 579 "The Law of God is Good and Wise"

**The Law of God is good and wise  
And sets His will before our eyes,  
Shows us the way of righteousness,  
And dooms to death when we transgress.**

**Its light of holiness imparts  
The knowledge of our sinful hearts  
That we may see our lost estate  
And turn from sin before too late.**

**To those who help in Christ have found  
And would in works of love abound  
It shows what deeds are His delight  
And should be done as good and right.**

**But those who scornfully disdain  
God's Law shall then in sin remain;  
Its terror in their ear resounds  
And keeps their wickedness in bounds.**

**The Law is good; but since the fall  
Its holiness condemns us all;  
It dooms us for our sin to die  
And has no pow'r to justify.**

**To Jesus we for refuge flee,  
Who from the curse has set us free,  
And humbly worship at His throne,  
Saved by grace through faith alone.**

**MESSAGE** "Seeing and Not Seeing"

Introduction

These are amazing, astounding, and confusing statements.

[1] What is spiritual blindness – not seeing.

Spiritual blindness (not seeing) is actually a form of seeing.

[2] What is spiritual sight – seeing.

Spiritual sight frees us from our prisons of self-centeredness.

Summary and Conclusion

The Law is intended to reveal us to ourselves.

The Gospel reveals Christ as the Light of Life.

**+ Our Response to God's Word +**

**OFFERING** *LSB 873* "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

**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.**

**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.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin grief;  
Fill me, radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.**

#### **PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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!**

#### **SENDING PRAYER**

Pastor: Father, show us daily Your Word of Law and Gospel, that is, Your light and truth. Open our eyes to the light and truth of Your Law showing us ourselves, our true nature; and, also to guide our day-to-day walk in this world. But, more importantly, enlighten our eyes and our hearts with the LIGHT and TRUTH of Your dear Son's death on the cross and His glorious resurrection from death's tomb. In fact, Father, take us daily to that cross and open tomb that our hearts may be warmed and transformed so that we may delight in Your love and, thus, live lives of love and service to our neighbors. We ask in the name of Jesus, the Same who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, world without end.

**People: Amen!**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The LORD is blessing you and keeping You in His love;  
The LORD is making His face to shine on you  
and He is being gracious to you;  
The LORD is smiling the biggest smile when He thinks of You  
and He is giving you peace.

People: **AMEN!**

**SENDING SONG** "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Lord, the light of Your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us.  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus*

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus*

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display Your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus*

<b>NEXT SUNDAY – July 3</b>
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**THEME:** Freedom

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** "Jail"

**MESSAGE:** "Thoughts on Freedom"