



"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD;
OUTSIDE OF ME IS ONLY DARKNESS."

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Daniel Bohlken, Interim Pastor

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 28, 2022

OUR WORSHIP

Light in the Darkness

SERVICE THEME Jesus says, "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in the darkness." Jesus is saying, "Unless you have Me you're in darkness. He isn't saying that you might fall into darkness if you don't have Him. He's saying that everybody in this world is in darkness, and He's the only light!

+ Preparing Ourselves to Hear God's Word +

INVOCATION

Pastor: We begin by remembering that we have been Baptized *into* the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In our Baptism, our sinful human nature has been buried with Christ, that is, put to death; and we have been raised with Christ to newness of LIFE.

People: AMEN!

OPENING HYMN *LSB 554* "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"

**O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable In whom all joys are found:**

**When once You visit darkened hearts, Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.**

**O Jesus, light of all below, The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know, All that we can desire:**

**May ev'ry heart confess Your name, Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame To seek You more and more!**

**Oh, may our tongues forever bless, May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express The image of Your own!**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *All God's People Sing 99*

Pastor: Father, by nature, our minds are blinded and our hearts are hardened by the spectacle of the shameful scandalous cross.

People: Please forgive us and make us new creatures as we remember our Baptism and when we hear the Good News of grace and forgiveness.

Pastor: We began our Worship together remembering our Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. And, in a few moments, we will hear God's holy Word which centers on and always speaks of Christ crucified, who by His death on the cross gives us the grace and favor of new birth in the assurance that we have peace with God and with one another – through the forgiveness of sins.

**“Glory be to God on high!” – This is now our joyful cry.
Peace to all who live on earth, – Grace and favor for new birth.
You we praise and glorify, – Worship You, O Lord most high. –
Gracious Father, heav'nly King, To Your name alone we sing:
Praise the glory of Your name, Now and evermore the same!**

**Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, – Sole begotten, holy One,
Born on earth from realms on high, – Born true man for us to die,
Lamb of God, You take away – This world's sin: Grant peace we pray. –
With the Spirit, You alone Are most high, O God the Son,
And the Father, God above. Praise we now Your gracious love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Father, send Your Holy Spirit through the message of Jesus' death on the scandalous cross for our sins and of His glorious resurrection from the tomb, thus defeating death, freeing us from the fear and finality of death. Send Your Spirit, not just as an extra shot of inspiration or as a jolt of power, but to assure us we are a completely new person when we are justified by faith alone in Christ Jesus alone.

People: We ask in Jesus' Name, the Same who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. AMEN!

+ Hearing God's Holy Word +

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING Psalm 27:1, 3, 4-5, 7-9, 13-14

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

Pastor: Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

People: though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

Pastor: One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:

People: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

Pastor: to gaze on the beauty of the LORD

People: and to seek Him in His temple.

Pastor: For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling;

**People: He will hide me in the shelter of His sacred tent and
set me high upon a rock.**

Pastor: Hear my voice when I call, LORD;

People: be merciful to me and answer me.

Pastor: My heart says of You, "Seek His face!"

People: Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Pastor: Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger.

**People: You have been my Helper;
do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.**

Pastor: I remain confident of this:

People: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Pastor: Wait for the LORD;

People: be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

**ALL: 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!**

OLD TESTAMENT READING John 12:37-41 (Isaiah 53:1; 6:10)

³⁷ Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in Him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

"LORD, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn – and I would heal them."

⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about Him.

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 5:8-16

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Pastor: These Readings are from God’s holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING John 12:35-36; 44-45

Pastor: The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of John the evangelist,
the disciple whom Jesus loved, the twelfth chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁵Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. ³⁶Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When He had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid Himself from them.

⁴⁴Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in Me does not believe in Me only, but in the One who sent Me. ⁴⁵The one who looks at Me is seeing the One who sent Me. ⁴⁶I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE “A Veil”

MESSAGE HYMN LSB 573 “Lord, ’Tis Not I Did Choose Thee”

Lord, ’tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me Washed and cleansed me free
And unto this end ordained me, That I ever live to Thee.

**It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me, To Thy heav'nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above Thee; For Thy grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.**

**Praise the God of all creation; Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation, Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation, Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration To the great Jehovah give.**

MESSAGE "Light in a Dark World"

Introduction

"I have come into the world as light, so that no one should stay in darkness."

In John's Gospel, darkness describes unbelief, evil, and death.

The Darkness of Unbelief

All of us, by nature are blind and hard-hearted.

Without Christ and His cross, the Bible is not understood. (2 Cor. 3:15-16)

The god of this world has blinded us, so we cannot see the cross' glory. (4:4)

The Darkness of Evil

All non-Christian religions look to the Law and will-power to defeat evil.

Luther: We become Someone radically new. (Gal. 2:20-21)

The Darkness of Death

"Only on the scaffold of unyielding despair can your soul's life be built."
(Bertrand Russell)

"Imagine there's no heaven – only people living for today." (John Lennon)

"Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in." (C. S. Lewis)

+ Our Response to God's Word +

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING *LSB 704* **Renew Me, O Eternal Light"**

**Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.**

**Remove the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire; And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light Eternal, through Your grace.**

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, send Your Holy Spirit to give us renewed faith in Christ Jesus, the
Light of the world. And, empower us today and every day to live out His
Light, that is, humbly and daily admitting our natural inclination to live
turned in on ourselves rather than being focused on Christ and His cross.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who is our Light and our Life, and who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

People: Amen!

BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen!

SENDING HYMN “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

NEXT SATURDAY

CHRIS PING’S FUNERAL SERVICE: 11:00 am – Waud’s Funeral Home

LUNCHEON FOLLOWING SERVICE: Redeemer’s Fellowship Hall