

THE THIRD WEDNESDAY IN LENT
MARCH 15, 2023
7:00PM
LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, who enlightens all who believe in Him. His light dispels sin and darkness and fills you with so much light and joy that you truly reflect His light to the world. Although God's Word exposes all your sin (see Hebrews 4:12), in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. As His baptized child, you now walk as a child of the light (see Ephesians 5:8), reflecting His light to others.

LENT EVENING PRAYER PROPERS INSERT

(Continued from page 8 of the worship booklet.)

PSALM 27:

The psalm is read responsively by verses. The pastor begins.

P: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

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

P: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

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.
And 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;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

P: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

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

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

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

P: Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

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

P: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

C: **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!**

PSALM PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world, and no amount of darkness in our world can overcome Your presence shining in our lives.

C **Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5: 1-2, 8-14

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING: John 8: 12-18

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: The Light shines in the darkness

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

All who are able, stand

HYMN: "Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing" LSB 421

(burgundy book)

**Jesus, grant that balm and healing in Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling pains of body and of mind,
Should some evil thought within tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril and from sinning keep me from its first beginning.**

**Should some lust or sharp temptation fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to your cross and passion, and new courage shall I find.
Or should Satan press me hard, let me then be on my guard,
Saying "Christ for me was wounded", that the tempter flee confounded.**

**If the world my heart entices with the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices, let me weight the awful load.
You were willing to endure let me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation, calm in prayer and meditation.**

**Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me by Your wounds Lord is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me, granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all atoning passion has procured my soul's salvation.**

**O my God, my rock and tower, grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony ever help and comfort me;
When I die by my protection, light and life and resurrection.**

All sit

MEDITATION

All who are able, stand

The liturgy continues on page 8 of the worship booklet with the ANNUNCIATION and MAGNIFICAT.

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing” LSB 421: Text: Public Domain

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