

MARCH 11, 2026 – MIDWEEK 3

## LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS

“Let there be light,” God said (Genesis 1:3). And there was light. Through the promised treasure of His Word, God keeps speaking to us. And because He does, there is light. Light from above! Light never-ending! Light that enlightens our way to life everlasting! Jesus Christ is this “light of the world” (John 8:12), the light no darkness can overcome. By His Word and Spirit, this light breaks through again today, enters our lives, and enables us to shine brightly for Him.

### OPENING SENTENCES

*LSB*, p. 229

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** 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.  
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

+ PSALMODY +

### PSALM

*Psalm 27:1–4, 13–14*

- P** 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?  
**P** When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.  
**C** Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.  
**P** 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,  
**C** to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.  
**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!

**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.**

### HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (*LSB* 427)

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o’ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

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+ READINGS +

READING

*Genesis 1:1–5*

**P** A reading from Genesis, the first chapter.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

READING

*Ephesians 5:1–2, 8–14*

**P** A reading from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. . . .

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

READING

*John 8:12–18*

**P** A reading from St. John, the eighth chapter.

<sup>12</sup>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.” <sup>13</sup>So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are bearing witness about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. <sup>18</sup>I am the one who bears witness about Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness about Me.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

LENT RESPONSORY

*LSB*, p. 231

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

HYMN

“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing” (*LSB* 421)

1 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.

2 Should some lust or sharp temptation  
 Fascinate my sinful mind,  
 Draw me to Your cross and passion,  
 And new courage I shall 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.

3 If the world my heart entices  
With the broad and easy road,  
With seductive, sinful vices,  
Let me weigh the awful load  
You were willing to endure.  
Help me flee all thoughts impure  
And to master each temptation,  
Calm in prayer and meditation.

4 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.

5 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 be my protection,  
Light and life and resurrection.

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SERMON

+ CANTICLE +

ANTIPHON

*LSB, p. 231*

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**Magnificat**

**P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;  
**C** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.  
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.  
For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;  
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of  
their hearts.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

**He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his seed forever.**

**☐ 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.**

## Offering

### 786 Lord of All Good

1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;  
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.  
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be  
That our whole life is offered to Your will.

2 We give our minds to understand Your ways;  
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great design;  
Hearts with the flame of Your own love ablaze—  
Thus for Your glory all our pow'rs combine.

△ 3 Father, whose bounty all creation shows;  
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;  
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:  
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

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+ PRAYER +

## KYRIE

*LSB, p. 233*

**☐ Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*LSB, p. 233*

**☐ 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.**

## COLLECTS

**☐ O Lord, hear my prayer.  
☐ And let my cry come to You.**

**P** 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. Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

**C** **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**

**P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

**C** **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

**P** Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

**C** **Enable us to walk in the light of Your grace, knowing that You are truly the light of the world that darkness can never overcome.**

**P** Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

**C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

*LSB*, p. 234

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

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

BENEDICTION

*LSB*, p. 234

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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