

“Those Living in  
Darkness have  
Seen a Glorious  
LIGHT!”



First Sunday in Advent

## The Order of Worship

### Pre-Service Music

#### Welcome

#### Preparation for Worship

P: Let us worship and praise our glorious Lord who comes to bless us with his love, who releases us from fear, and who shines in our hearts with his saving light: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is in his name we pray:

**C: O gracious God and Lord, who proclaims his faithful promise and keeps it, be with us and bless us through your Word. Bring us guidance and comfort. Give us both light and life through the coming Savior so that we can joyfully praise you—our God, our Lord, our Savior, and our Comforter. Amen.**

#### Opening Hymn

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

*Christian Worship 586*

#### The Confession of Sins

P: Dearly loved in the Lord! <sup>5</sup>This is the message we heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light. In him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him but still walk in darkness, we are lying and do not put the truth into practice. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.

P: Recognizing we have sinned, and acknowledging God’s Word has worked in us, let us join in confessing those sins we know, and even those of which we are not aware.

**C: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor miserable sinner must plead guilty to all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you. I must also confess I justly deserve your punishment, for now and for all eternity. But I am truly sorry I have sinned against you, and I humbly repent of every evil I have done. I also place myself at your mercy, and I pray that for the sake the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your dearly loved Son Jesus Christ, you would be gracious and merciful to me a sinner.**

**Absolution**

P: The apostle John writes: My children, I write these things to you so that you will not sin. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

P: Now, as a called servant of God's Word, I can assure you he has heard and answered your prayer. He has forgiven all your sins. He has removed your guilt forever. He has brought you out of darkness and into his wonderful light. All this he did through the precious work of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Be confident all is forgiven. Live in his grace and peace. Rejoice that God has brought you out of the darkness of death and into light and life of heaven.

**C: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Song of Praise**

“Christ is the World's Light”

*Christian Worship 343 st. 1, 3-4*

Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;  
Born in our darkness, he became our brother.  
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:  
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other;  
Sold once for sliver, murdered here, our brother.  
He who redeemed us reigns with God the Father:  
Glory to God on high!

Give God the glory, God and none other;  
Give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;  
Give God the glory, God with us, my brother:  
Glory to God on high!

### **Prayer for the Day**

P: O gracious Savior, you are the Light of the world. With the purity of your brightness you have shattered the darkness of sin which held us captive. Continue to shine in our lives as you lead us out of the darkness of death and into the light of life. Illuminate the way before us so we can safely and confidently travel the path to heaven. In the place you have prepared for us, we will praise you—together with your Father and the Spirit—throughout endless ages.



C: A ——— men.

The Lessons from God's Word  
*"Send out your light and your truth.  
Let them guide me."*

### **Old Testament**

*Isaiah 2:1-5*

<sup>1</sup>This is the message that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>This will take place in the latter days:

The mountain of the LORD's house will be established  
as the chief of the mountains.

It will be raised above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it like a river.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples will come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob.  
Then he will instruct us about his ways,  
and we will walk in his paths.”  
For from Zion the law will go out,  
and the LORD’s word will go out from Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup>He will judge between the nations,  
and he will mediate for many peoples.  
Then they will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,  
nor will they learn war anymore.  
<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come,  
and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

**Psalm of the Day**

*Psalm 24*

*(The congregation will read responsively )*

P: <sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD’s and everything that fills it, the world  
and all who live in it,

**C: <sup>2</sup>because he founded it on the seas, and he established it  
on the rivers.**

P: <sup>3</sup>Who may go up to the mountain of the LORD? Who may  
stand in his holy place?

**C: <sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart, whose soul is  
not set on what is false, who does not swear deceitfully.**

P: <sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness  
from the God who saves him.

**C: <sup>6</sup>Such are the people of Jacob who look for the LORD,  
who seek your face.**

P: <sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates. Lift yourselves up, you ancient  
doors, and the King of Glory will come in. <sup>8</sup>Who is this King of  
Glory?

**C: The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

P: <sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates. Lift up, you ancient doors, and the King of Glory will come in. <sup>10</sup>Who is he, this King of Glory? The LORD of Armies—he is the King of Glory.

***Response to the Psalm***

“Lift Up Your Heads”  
*Christian Worship 3 st. 1 & 3*

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates!  
Behold the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation he will bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is he  
Who comes to set his people free.  
To God the Spirit raise your happy shouts of praise.

**Epistle**

*Romans 13:11–14*

<sup>11</sup>And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

**Theme for the Day**

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?



<sup>40</sup>“At that time two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: If the master of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>You also need to be ready for this reason: The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.”

P: All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

### **The Confession of Faith**

*(we unite in the words of the Apostles' Creed)*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated  
at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there 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.**

**Hymn of the Day**      “O Lord of Light, Who Made the Stars”  
*Christian Worship 31 st. 1-5 to the tune of*  
*“All People that on Earth Do Dwell”*

O Lord of light, who made the stars,  
O Dawn, by whom we see the way,  
O Christ, Redeemer of the world:  
Come now and listen as we pray.

In lowliness you came to earth  
To rescue us from Satan’s snares,  
O wondrous Love that healed our wounds  
By taking on our mortal cares.

To pay the debt we owed for sin,  
Your painful cross was made the price;  
From blessed Mary’s womb you came,  
A victim pure for sacrifice.

But now you reign, the King of kings,  
Adored in highest majesty;  
Your very name is held in awe  
From pole to pole and sea to sea.

Great Judge of all, on earth’s last day  
Have pity on your children’s plight.  
Rise up to shield us with your grace;  
Deliver us from Satan’s might.

**Sermon**

*Isaiah 9:1-2*

<sup>1</sup>Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In the former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to

be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

### **A Glorious Light has Dawned** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **“Light for Those Walking in the Darkness of Sin”**

A Light to Pierce the Darkness  
A Light to Lead Out of the Darkness

### **Service of the Advent Candle**

P: The world’s need for light has existed from the time of the first act of rebellion. When Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord, they plunged all creation into the darkness of sin and death. That darkness surrounds all, because now all sin. It is inescapable. Yet the Lord did not want sinners to remain in darkness. So he sent his Son to be the Light of the world. Throughout the ages the promise was given, and now stands fulfilled. Jesus, the Light of the world, has come into the world. Hear those faithful promises and rejoice that we now have light and life.

### **Psalm 18:25-28** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>25</sup>To the merciful you reveal yourself as merciful.

To the blameless person you reveal yourself as blameless.

<sup>26</sup>To the pure you reveal yourself as pure,  
but to the crooked you reveal yourself as crafty.

<sup>27</sup>For you save humble people,  
but you bring low the eyes of the arrogant.

<sup>28</sup>Yes, you light my lamp, O LORD.  
My God turns my darkness to light.

### **Isaiah 42:5-7** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>5</sup>This is what the true God says, the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out, who spreads out the earth and

everything that it produces, who gives breath to the people on it and life to those who walk on it.

<sup>6</sup> I am the LORD.

I have called you in righteousness.

I will hold on to your hand, and I will guard you.

I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,  
to be a light for the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,  
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison

### **Matthew 4:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>When Jesus heard that John was put in prison, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. <sup>14</sup>He did this to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup>Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles,

<sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,  
and on those dwelling in the region and the shadow  
of death a light has dawned.

<sup>17</sup>From that time, Jesus began to preach: “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near.”

### **The Lighting of the Candle of Prophecy**

#### **Advent Candle Song**

“O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

*Christian Worship 569 st. 1-4*

O Christ, our true and only light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear your voice  
And in your fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of your grace  
The souls now lost in error’s maze

And all whom in their secret minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

Oh, gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed  
In you find peace and heav'nly rest.

Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand'ers to your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart.

## Thanksgiving and Prayer

### **Prayer for the Day**

*Special Prayers and Requests*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*(the congregation will join with the pastor)*

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Hymn**

“Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes”  
*Christian Worship 9*

### Closing Prayer

P: O God from God, O Light from Light, you came into the world to rescue it from the darkness of sin and the condemnation of death it brought. As we rejoice in your coming, we recognize we are fully responsible for your suffering, crucifixion, and death. Still, you entered our darkness so we would never have to endure it. Fill us with joy as we anticipate your coming. Shine in our hearts and lives piercing the darkness and freeing us from its gloom. Lead us by your glorious light to eternal life in heaven. There we will praise you together with your Father and the Spirit for your undeserved love and incomparable compassion.



C: A ——— men.

### The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look on you with his favor; and

give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A ——— men.

### Hymn of the Day

“O Savior, Rend the Heaven’s Wide”  
*Christian Worship 22 st. 1-4 to the tune of*  
*“May God the Father of Our Lord”*

O Savior, rend the heavens wide;

Come down, come down with mighty stride;

Unlock the gates, the doors break down;

Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.

O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn,  
When will we sing your morning song?  
Come, Son of God! Without your light  
We grope in dread and gloom of night.

Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand  
From exile to your promised land.

There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to you, our Savior-King;  
There shall we laud you and adore  
Forever and forevermore.

### **Silent Prayer**

#### **Announcements**

**Today**—*Welcome in the name of our ever faithful and ever loving Savior.* May the light and life he comes to bring fill your lives with joyful hope as you follow him to eternal life. If you are visiting this morning, please sign the guest book. Come back and worship with us again, soon!

- We will watch the November Edition of the WELS Connection newsletter.
- Everyone is invited to enjoy a cup of coffee and the gift of friendship following the worship service.
- After you get a cup of coffee, please make your way back to the sanctuary for Bible Class. We will consider Paul's letter to the Christians at Rome, and the guidance it provides to live lives as people of the light, and to the glory of God.

**Monday**—Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm.

**Wednesday**—Bible Class will meet at 7:00 pm. We will resume the study of "This Changed Everything." This evenings video and discussion will review how the Reformation spread from Europe to England, and what the results were.

**Friday**—Office Hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm.

**Saturday**—Clean: Florez

- Lawn beginning November 27th—E. Pettus

**Sunday, December 5th—Worship at 9:30 am.** We continue with our Advent worship “A Glorious Light has Dawned.” This week Isaiah lead us to rejoice in the light for those living in the darkness of death.

- The Lord’s Supper will also be offered in this service. You may register to receive it today. You may also make arrangements to receive it privately during the week. Please speak to the Pastor to set up a time.
- Christian Education will follow the worship service and will continue with Paul’s encouragement to the Christians at Rome—through patient endurance we will gain the final victory.

Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for controlling the audio and video of the live stream; to Sue Proeber for placing flowers on the altar to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for his many blessings.

Acknowledgements

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