

YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

AS WE GATHER

Israel's fate seemed dark in Isaiah's day, but he provided a vision of the future: God would shed on them His glory and light, bright enough to attract other nations with their wealth and treasures. Likewise, until it dawned on Saul/Paul, God had sent the Messiah only to Israel. But Paul's ministry was to bring to light for everyone the mystery of Christ, that the Gentiles be partakers in the Gospel. The Magi saw a physical light in a certain portion of the sky and realized they should find the King it announced. And now our light has come, the light of God's love in Christ shining in our hearts. Today is a day to celebrate that God has left no one out of the Gospel message. We thank God and tell one another and all we meet, "Your light has come."

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN "O JESUS, KING MOST WONDERFUL"

#554



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
self in - flame To seek You more and more!
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

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INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 60:1, 5-6; Matthew 2:2, 10-11

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come.
C We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.

- P** You shall see and be radiant.
C **They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.**

- P** They shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.
C **And they fell down and worshiped Him.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Ephesians 3:11–12

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

- P** If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P** Although God has graciously showered the light of His love on us, we have not responded in lives of total devotion. But because He has graciously promised to forgive, let us go to Him in the name of “Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.”
C **Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we have let the distractions of this world turn our eyes from seeing the true Light. We have not loved You with our whole hearts. Forgive us and renew in us hearts to see, follow, and worship You alone.**

- P** In the mercy of almighty God, our heavenly Father sent His Son to take to His cross all our sins, and His Holy Spirit has graciously shined the light of faith in Christ into our hearts. I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

WORD

KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For peace shining down on us from above and for the salvation of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For peace so that the Church of God would more brightly shine the light of the Gospel in the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For all who join us here to thank God for the unsearchable riches of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.

C Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to
me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written
briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,
⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now
been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the
Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in
Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which
was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all
the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of
Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for
ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom
of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly
places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus
our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith
in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Matthew 2:2b

P Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

C For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD”

#397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to Thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre - at - ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.
There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

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SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 3:6–7, 10

P Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For ourselves, that we thank God as a congregation and in our individual lives for revealing to us that we are all “partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,” let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who minister “according to the gift of God’s grace” that has been given to them, people of faith who are in government, armed forces, local police departments, professional and volunteer caregivers, and workers in the health professions, that they serve those under their care in safety and with wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all for whom the mystery of Christ is still hidden, that through the Church here and around the world “the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known” to them, so that they approach God in confident faith for Jesus’ sake, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], that they boldly bring their petitions to God in faith and that we open ourselves to be part of the answers that God so graciously provides, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who have gone before us in faith—the Magi, the writers of the Scriptures, patriarchs, prophets, saints, martyrs, and those who brought the Good News to us, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

C **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.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as You serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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