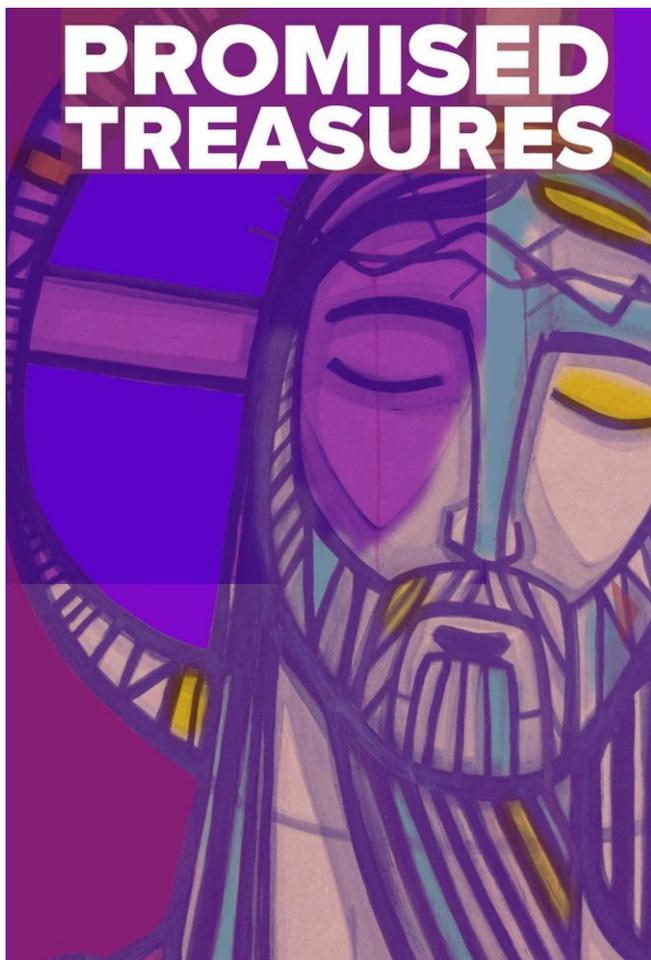


# St. Johns Lutheran Church



Light Shining in the  
Darkness

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St. Johns Lutheran Church

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Lent Midweek 3

March 11th, 2026

Promised Treasures: Light Shining in the Darkness

## **AS WE GATHER**

“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** - Holden Evening Prayer (*Stand as you are able*)

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

**The light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

**And the day is almost over.**

Let you light scatter the darkness,

**And shine within your people here.**

**Joyous light of heav’nly glory, loving glow of God’s own face,  
you sing creation’s story, shine on ev’ry land and race. Now as  
evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of  
daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.**

**In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of  
dawn, in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet  
song. Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the  
weary soul, love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and  
make us whole.**

**You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light. Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.**

May God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us sing our thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

**Amen.**

## PSALMODY

**PSALM**      Psalm 27:1–4, 13–14

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?**

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

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

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.**

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

**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

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

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

**READINGS**

**READING**    Genesis 1:1–5 (*Sit*)

<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.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

**Thanks be to God.**

**READING** Ephesians 5:1–2, 8–14

<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.”

O Lord, have mercy on us.

**Thanks be to God.**

**READING** John 8:12–18 (*Stand as you are able*)

<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.”

O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**LENT RESPONSORY**      LSB, p. 231

Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.  
**Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.  
**Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.  
**Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**SERIES HYMN**      “One House Abides Unending” (*Sit*)

**One house abides unending,  
One Master fears no fall,  
One Lord provides, attending  
The daily want of all.  
When ruin would allure them  
Whose one estate was need,  
One Father would secure them  
In will, in trust, in deed.**

**The wealth of all creation  
We squandered at our birth.  
The heirs of condemnation  
Sowed tears in blighted earth.  
But light, the world’s first treasure,  
The Master worked anew  
In promise, and in measure  
No mortal eye could view.**

**With endless hunger driven  
The grave cried out for more,  
But Jesus Christ has given  
Safe passage through its door:  
His flowing blood our raiment,  
The flood to purge our shame;  
The living God the payment  
That buys for us His name.**

**Exchange our ash for beauty,  
Anoint our grief with joy;  
Dear Lord, who paid our duty,  
All grace for us employ.  
Feed us the saving manna  
Lest on the way we fail  
And sweeten our Hosanna  
To holy Easter's hail.**

## **SERMON**

## **CANTICLE**

**ANTIPHON** LSB, p. 231

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

**MAGNIFICAT** - *Holden Evening Prayer*

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit  
rejoices in You.**

**You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed  
me all my life through.**

**Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your  
kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one,  
humbling the proud of heart!**

**You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and  
uplifted the humble of heart.  
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the  
wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your  
justice, strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness  
forevermore.**

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit  
rejoices in You.  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed  
me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your  
kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one,  
humbling the proud of heart!**



**OFFERING**

*(Scan this code with your phone if you would like to  
give online)*

**PRAYER**

**KYRIE**      LSB, p. 233 *(Stand as you are able)*

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

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
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.**

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.

**Amen.**

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.

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

Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary, **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

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

**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.**

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.

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

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.

**Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS** LSB, p. 234

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**BENEDICTION** LSB, p. 234

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

**Amen.**

**HYMN** “Abide with Me” LSB 878

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**

**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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Liturgist	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Elder	Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli

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