

THE LIGHT HAS COME



WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

LSB 383 vs. 1-4

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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. (Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4)

P: This morning, we begin a new year of worship together as God’s people. And when there is something new, it often brings excitement - a new year, a new relationship, a new job, a new — you can fill in the blank. But new isn’t always what people want. Jesus came into the world as a Light that newly shined in the darkness. But some preferred the darkness and shunned the Light because their deeds were evil and didn’t want their actions to be exposed. “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the Light,” – if we acknowledge our sin and are sorry for our sin and confess it before God, “the blood of Jesus, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin.” So, as we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us confess our sinfulness, including those times where we have preferred the darkness over the Light. And let us turn to Him for forgiveness, taking refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

C: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Please take a moment for silent confession

P: Almighty God,

C: have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN OF PRAISE

“The People That in Darkness Sat”

LSB 412

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



E: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 1:1-10

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.



E: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:16-21

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”



P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

selections from the Athanasian Creed

It is necessary to everlasting salvation that one also believes faithfully the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man;

God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of the substance of his mother, born in the world;

Perfect God and perfect man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.

For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ;

Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, he sits at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

This is the universal Christian faith which, except a man believe faithfully and firmly, he cannot be saved.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING SONG

“We Have a Savior”

MESSAGE

“The Light Has Come”

Pastor Ben Spaulding

Please stand

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(Matthew 6:9–13)



CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P: In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

"Agnus Dei"	LSB 210
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"	LSB 359
"Away in a Manger"	LSB 365
"What a Wonderful Maker"	
"What Love My God"	
"As with Gladness Men of Old"	LSB 397

Please stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

BLESSING

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. (Numbers 6:24-26)

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

LSB 390