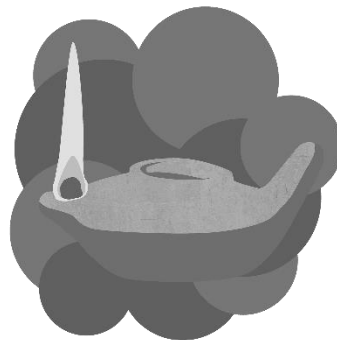


FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Jesus, The Light of the World

February 9, 2020



AS WE GATHER

We consider today that Jesus calls Himself the light of the world and also calls us the light of the world in the Holy Gospel. While Jesus shines His grace upon the earth, He also calls upon us to shine our light throughout the entire world, so that many come to know Him as their Savior. How blessed are we to be the light of the world with Jesus!

We consider today Jesus' words "You are the light of the world." Jesus tells His followers that their light should not be hidden, but rather it should help others to see. As we go about our daily lives, by God's grace we walk in the light of Jesus. Warmed by His light, we share that light He has given us with others in how we act, in what we say, and especially in spreading the good news about Jesus' forgiveness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Blessed are those who fear the Lord,

People: **who greatly delight in His commandments.**

Pastor: Light dawns in the darkness for the upright.

People: **God is gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

Pastor: You are the light of the world,
People: **a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.**

Pastor: Let your light shine that others may see and give glory to God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Jesus does indeed call us the light of the world and tells us to let our light shine, but there have been times when we have hidden our light. There have been times when we could have shared our light with others, but we refused to do so for fear of rejection. Though we are the light of the world, we sometimes choose darkness instead of light. But we come before our heavenly Father to ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **we confess that we have not always walked in Your light. We have hidden Your light from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and our weakness. Illumine and energize us once again to shine Your light to the ends of the earth.**

Pastor: Even though we fail to act as the light of the world, Jesus never failed to shine His light. For our sins, Jesus, the light of the world was extinguished on the cross, yet He is risen from the dead never to die again. Because of His death and resurrection, darkness flees and sins are forgiven. 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.

People: **Amen. We are the light of the world. We are forgiven in Christ.**

✘ **WORD** ✘

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Jesus The Light of The World” TFBF 59

1 Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world; "Glory to the new-born King," Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Jesus, the Light of the world; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world. [Refrain]

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into this world of darkness and death to be our light and our life. Strengthen us so that we share and shine the light of Christ throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 58:3–9a* (God urges mercy and compassion to those in need.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE YOUTH CHOIR

GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Leader: Praise the LORD, all nations!

People: Extol Him, all peoples!

Leader: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

People: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

People: bring an offering, and come into His courts!

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16)* (Paul proclaims nothing but Christ crucified.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO – Makayla Edwards

VERSE *Matthew 5:16b*

Leader: Alleluia. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:13–20* (You are the light of the world. Let your light shine.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

Ms. Angela Henderson

WELCOME – Tyler Edwards

YOUTH BLACK HISTORY PRESENTATION

SERMON

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

CREED Apostles' Creed

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

Leader: Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to be the light of the world. Send out messengers and missionaries to share the light of Christ in every corner of the earth, that people from every tribe, nation, and language would follow Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, there are many in this world who live in the darkness of depression, anxiety, and mental illness. Help us to be light to those in dark places, to encourage them to seek medical assistance, and to accept them as Your beloved children. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, walk with all those who are grieving in the shadow of death, [*especially* . . .]. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal light and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, shine Your light upon all those in public office. Enlighten them with Your wisdom and keep them from the darkness of the evil one. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, strengthen all those who are poor, homeless, hungry, oppressed, or in need in any way. Help us to see these people as Your creations in need of Your mercy and light, just as we are. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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

People: **Amen.**

HYMN“Lift Every Voice And Sing” TFBF 296

1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a 2a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast, by thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee, lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

