

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Word Made Flesh

December 22, 2024

10:30 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Faribault, MN 55021



Week 4: Light of the World Order of Service

Announcements

P I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

Opening Hymn ... “Father Welcomes” LSB 605, sts. 1-3

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(Four blue candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)

P Today, we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath as we rejoice in Jesus our Savior, the Light of the World. To a world lost in the darkness of sin, Jesus brought the light of love and salvation, a light that we see shining out of the manger in Bethlehem.

C Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus, with the light of your love.

P Jesus tells us, “You are the light of the world. ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14, 16)

C Lord Jesus, help us to reflect the light of your love to everyone we meet.

Baptism of Theodore

Son of Christopher & Sarah

Baptism liturgy, then...

P Finally, Theodore, God washes you of your sins in baptism but he also brings you into his family. We welcome you into our family in God’s name. Come and enjoy with us the many gifts of God as we all wait for the day of his return.

C We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

P Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise you that you have sent us your Son, Jesus, to take our place in death and rise from the grave. We thank you for working through baptism to wash us of our sins and bring us into your family.

P We thank you for bringing Theodore to the waters of baptism and now we ask you to help us surround Theodore with your love so we can walk in grace and new life together. Protect Theodore from the temptations of this world and bless him to join us in the life of faith.

P The Lord preserve you in every step of your life from now to life eternal. The peace of Christ + be with you.

C Amen.

Hymn... **“God Loves Me Dearly”** LSB 392, sts. 1-3

Please stand

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, even though we should shine with Jesus’ light, we often become lost in the shadows of sin. We turn away from your Word and your will to listen to the temptations of the world around us. Instead of seeking to help and serve others, we pay more attention to our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.

P God loved the world and sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus died and rose from death for us, and our sins are washed away in his blood. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

C Jesus, Light of the World, shine in and through us!

Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus, on the first Christmas, light filled the night sky as angels announced your birth to shepherds and sang praise to God. You are the Light of the World, and those who follow you will not walk in darkness. Help us in the power of the Holy Spirit to reflect your light in a world still lost in the darkness of sin. As we bear witness to your love through our words and actions, we pray that others will come to trust in you and to walk in the light of your love. Mighty Lord, hear our prayer and accept our praise.
Amen.

Please sit

Hymn ... "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" LSB 839, sts. 1

Children's Sermon

Hymn ... "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" LSB 839, sts. 2-3

Old Testament Reading ... Exodus 13:21-22

²¹And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²²The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Please sit

Tithes and Offering

Sermon Hymn ... "O God of God, O Light of Light" LSB 810, sts. 1-2

Sermon "LIGHT OF THE WORLD" The Rev. Peter Gueldner

Please stand**Prayers**

Each petition concludes with the following response:

P Jesus, Light of the World,

C Lead us to walk in the light of your love.

Lord's Prayer

P Together let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us...

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 (John 8:12; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Numbers 6:24-26)

P 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."

C God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen

Please sit

Closing Hymn "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" LSB 348, sts. 1-5

*** * * TO GOD BE THE GLORY * * ***

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