

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 26, 2020

Worship Focus

"Now Appearing"... The Light



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Order of Service for
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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A-714955*

✠ **Gathering** ✠

OPENING HYMN

81 - Arise and Shine in Splendor



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -
2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions
3 Lift up your eyes in won - der— See, na - tions gath - er
4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness When from the realms of



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove,
dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you
yon - der From sin to be set free. The world
sad - ness They come from near and far. Your eyes



the day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty
the Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope—has
has heard your sto - ry; Your sons come to your
will wake from slum - ber As peo - ple with - out



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.
giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.
glo - ry, And daugh - ters haste your light to see.
num - ber Re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639, abr.; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, b. 1899–1987, alt.
Tune: EPIPHANY (776 778) Bruce R. Backer, b. 1929. © 1993 Bruce R. Backer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

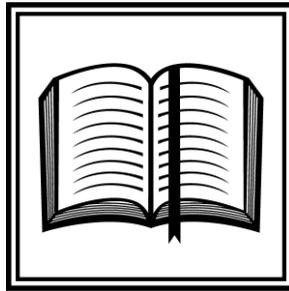
**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Praise his great love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.**

**Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Worship and honor to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



✘ The Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-4

Isaiah prophesies that the Christ would come with the light of the Gospel to Galilee of the Gentiles.

ISAIAH 9:1 Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

³ He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.”

⁴ But I said, “I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD’s hand, and my reward is with my God.”

PSALM

Psalm 27

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹My brothers, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹²What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? ¹⁴I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, abr., alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

REGENTS SQUARE (87 87 87) CW 80, Refrain only. Text, Tune: Public Domain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King!

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

Matthew reveals how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy in his description of Jesus’ day to day ministry.

MATTHEW 4:12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee.

¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, along the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come,

follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

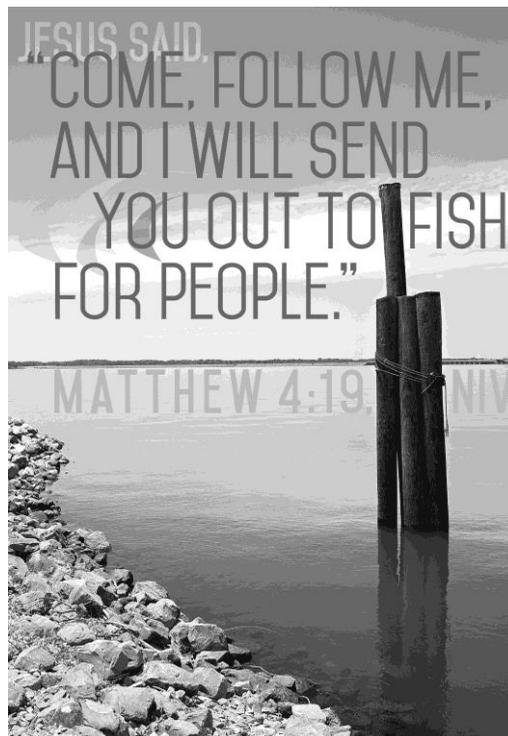
²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. A slur is placed under the first three notes (G, A, B). The piece ends with a double bar line.



HYMN OF THE DAY

577 - Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations



1 Rise, O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, Je - sus, bright and
 2 Know - ing you and your sal - va - tion, Grate - ful love dare
 3 May our zeal to help the hea - then Be in - creased from
 4 Sav - ior, shine in all your glo - ry On the na - tions



Morn - ing Star; Let your Word, the glad - some ti - dings,
 nev - er cease To pro - claim your ten - der mer - cies,
 day to day, As we plead in true com - pas - sion
 near and far; From the high - ways and the by - ways



Ring out loud - ly near and far, Bring - ing
 Gra - cious Lord, your heav'n - ly peace. Let us
 And for their con - ver - sion pray. For the
 Call them forth, O Morn - ing Star. Guide them



free - dom to the cap - tives, Peace and com - fort
 sound the gos - pel ti - dings To the earth's re -
 man - y faith - ful work - ers, For the gos - pel
 whom your grace has cho - sen Out of Sa - tan's



to the slave, That the hea - then, free from
 mot - est bound That the sin - ner has been
 they pro - claim, Let us all be cheer - ful
 dread - ful thrall To the man - sions of your



bond - age, May pro - claim your pow'r to save.
 par - doned And for - give - ness can be found.
 giv - ers To the glo - ry of your name.
 Fa - ther— There is room for sin - ners all.

Text: Herman Fick, 1822-85, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (87/87 D) *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz*, Basel, 1745, alt.

✠ Sermon ✠

Jesus' Light Shatters the Darkness

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apost

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In the light of Christ and with an increase in joy, let us pray to the Lord on behalf of His Church and all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

That the light of Christ may continue to shine among us through the joyful preaching of the Gospel, and that His light may shine where the darkness of unbelief still holds people captive to sin and its death, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That this congregation may be strengthened by the preaching of the Gospel and the faithful administration of the Sacraments, and that God may bless those who hear and confirm them in His holy faith and fear all their days, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That every Christian may learn God's Word and teach the faith to family and children, and that each may be bold in telling the Good News of Jesus Christ to all those within their acquaintance and care, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the nations may enjoy peace; that we may know the gift of good and faithful leaders in our land; and that justice may be served in every place, for the good of every people and for the protection of the unborn and the weak, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Lord may give healing, comfort and peace to the sick in their afflictions, to the troubled in mind, to the grieving in their loss, and to the dying [*especially _____*]. And that they may know the comfort of His presence and be sustained in every trial, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the lonely may find welcome and consolation within the fellowship of God's people, and that those who sorrow may not despair but find hope in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may offer the Lord the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving with our lips and lives, along with the tithes and offerings of our hands, in gratitude for all His saving work and blessings, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Everlasting Father, You are the source of all life, and every good gift comes from You. Help us to honor Your gift of life, from conception to its natural end. Help us to guard those most in danger and to resist the forces that would cheapen life or rob it of the dignity You have placed upon it by giving Your only Son to redeem us, lost and condemned sinners. Hear us, we pray, on behalf of Him who gave His life for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

86 - The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by
 2 Oh, time of God ap - point - ed, Oh, bright and
 3 A - wak - en, Lord, our spir - it To know and
 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you With God the



an - cient seers, By God the Fa - ther giv - en,
 ho - ly morn! He comes, the King a - noint - ed,
 love you more, In faith to stand un - shak - en,
 Ho - ly Ghost And Je - sus, a - dore you,



In hu - man form ap - pears. sphere his
 The Christ, the vir - gin - born, soon death to
 In spir - it to a - dore, That we, through
 O Pride of an - gel host. Be - fore you



light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly
 con - quer for us, To o - pen heav'n be -
 this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en
 mor - tals low - ly Cry "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As he, our Morn - ing Star.
 fore us And bring us life a - gain.
 prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text: Elizabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–35, abr., st. 1-3; *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Minneapolis, 1978, st. 4;
 tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.

Tune: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN (76 76 776) *Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein*, Erfurt, 1524, alt.

✠ **Sending** ✠

PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

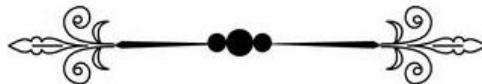
C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.



CLOSING HYMN 732 - We Are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light

Refrain

We are

sing - ing, for the Lord is our light, we are

sing - ing, for the Lord is our light. We are

sing - ing, for the Lord is our light, we are

sing - ing, for the Lord is our light. We are

sing - ing, Oh, we are

sing - ing, for the Lord is our light. We are

sing - ing, Oh, we are

sing - ing, for the Lord is our light. (☺) *Last time*

Verses



1 The Lord is the strength of our lives; Of
2 One thing have we asked of the Lord, Yes,
3 When bur - dens are heav - y to bear, Our
4 We walk in the strength of the Lord; God's



whom shall we be a - fraid? Though
this is the thing we seek: To
shel - ter is God a - lone. Our
love is ev - er sure. We



foes may be near to de - stroy; The
dwell in the house of the Lord, To
feet are lift - ed high, Yes
shout that the world may hear; We

To Refrain



Lord will be our light.
live with God for - ev - er. We are
high up - on a rock.
sing a joy - ful song.

With music based on the South African Freedom Song, this paraphrase of Psalm 27 underscores the confidence Christians have in God's deliverance from every trouble.

Text: South African, tr. and original verses by Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Tune: SIYAHAMBA (87 86 and Refrain) Zulu melody adapted by Hal H. Hopson.

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After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.



JESUS

Lights the Way

THE SEASON AFTER "THE EPIPHANY"

The season of the church year marked "After the Epiphany" is a time of revelation. "The Epiphany" isn't a season, per se, but a one day event, traditionally celebrated on January 6th (the final of the Twelve Days of Christmas). It marks the visit of the Wisemen to Jesus in Bethlehem, in this way revealing for the first time that Jesus was born for *the world*, both Jew and Gentile (the Wisemen were non-Jews or Gentiles).

The Sundays after the Epiphany continue to explore the theme of "revelation". For example, on the First Sunday after the Epiphany the congregation hears the Gospel lesson concerning Jesus' baptism, the event which revealed Jesus as the Christ or Anointed One. Subsequent Sundays make known the mission of Jesus through his messages or through his miracles.

Each of the three years of the Church Year cycle emphasizes one of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) with readings from John interspersed throughout each of the years. The Church Year 2019/2020 follows the readings appointed for Year A (confer *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, page 163) with Gospel lessons predominantly from Matthew.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: "NOW APPEARING..."

During our worship in this season after the Epiphany we will focus on the theme, "**Now Appearing...!**" Just like a movie marquee whets the cinematic appetite with the words "Now Appearing!", so we anticipate finding out more and more during the Sundays after the Epiphany about who Jesus is and why the Son of God came to earth in the first place.

OUR THEME FOR TODAY:

"NOW APPEARING..." THE LIGHT

The metaphors of "dark" and "light" figure prominently in the Scriptures.

"Darkness" is the cover under which human beings engage in blatant sin. "Darkness" is the ignorance of not knowing God's goodness or grace. "Darkness" describes the life we live in this world, engulfed in sin and sin's consequences.

"Light", on the other hand, exposes sin. "Light" is the joy of knowing God's grace and goodness. "Light" describes the place where God lives, where everything is perfect and good.

Sin has so thoroughly clouded our spiritual vision that we wouldn't know the depths of our darkness or the brilliance of God's light, except that Jesus came *from heaven to earth* in order to shine the light of God's grace on us, in this way also scattering our darkness. Jesus once called himself the "Light of the world" – and today we meditate on the significance of that name.