

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 15 S 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Church Website: www.zionharrisburg.org
12:10pm WOW (Worship On Wednesday) Service – March 6, 2024
Lunch afterwards in the Fellowship Hall

MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

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.

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1–11

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C **Lord Jesus, the Father’s only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

P Darkness seeks to overtake us and rob us of the light, distracting us from Your never-failing presence in our lives.

C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, the true light of the world who scatters the darkness of our sin and shines upon us the bright beams of His mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

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.

C **Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

VERSE

Joel 2:13b

Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:12–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹²Again 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.” ¹³So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are bearing witness about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴Jesus 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. ¹⁵You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶Yet 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. ¹⁷In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸I am the one who bears witness about Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness about Me.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY

PRAYER

P 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.

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

P Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus’ great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

C **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

- P Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C **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.**
- P 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. *Additional petitions...*
- C **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the promised treasure of salvation accomplished for us by the life-giving sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C **Amen.**

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."

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."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

THE COMMUNION

All baptized persons who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine are welcome to the Table of the Lord.

Take an empty cup to receive wine from the assisting minister. Grape juice is available in pre-filled cups.

For those continuing to fast from the sacrament, you are invited to pray the following prayer, The Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if you were already there,
and I unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Grant us the faith to always trust that because of Your Son's death and resurrection, we have forgiveness of sins and hope of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Karin Pejack

Minister of Technology: Catherine Germann

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ADDITIONAL READINGS ON THE THEME: LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:1–5

P The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, the first chapter.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The 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.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

PSALM

Psalm 27:1–4, 13–14

P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

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

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

P 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,

C **to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.**

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

C **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

P The Epistle is from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. . . .

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm

SPECIAL LENT – HOLY WEEK Worship & Prayer Series: “Promised Treasures”

February 21, Lent 1:	Salt: The Gift that Sweetens & Preserves
February 28, Lent 2:	Water Gives You Life
March 6, Lent 3:	Light Shining in the Darkness
March 13, Lent 4:	Bread of Life
March 20, Lent 5:	Palms & Victory
March 27, Holy Wednesday:	Oil of Joy & Gladness
March 28, Maundy Thursday:	Water & Blood
March 29, Good Friday:	The Old Rugged, Wooden Cross
April 4, 1 st Wednesday after Easter:	Welcome to the Promised Land of Milk & Honey

Weekly Schedule

Sunday (Communion & Healing Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays and Festivals)

9:00am **Sunday School** (in-person only)

9:45am **Fellowship** (in-person only)

10:15am **Worship Service** (in-person & online)

Wednesday (Communion on the 1st Wednesday)

12:10pm **WOW, Worship On Wednesday** (in-person & online)

12:35pm **Lunch Fellowship** (in-person only)