

*I am
the Light
of the World*



THE WORD MADE FLESH:
LIGHT OF THE WORLD
DECEMBER 4, 2024

“For 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.”

Please Stand

OPENING LITANY

Pastor: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world...”

People: “...Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”

Pastor: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

People: and the day is almost over.

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: And illuminate Your Church.

HYMN

“The People That in Darkness Sat”

LSB 412

- 1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.
- 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
The gath’ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.

- 3 To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
- 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.
- 5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.
- △ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: John Morison, 1749-98, alt.

Text: Public domain

Please Be Seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 13:21-22

And 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. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For 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. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:14-16

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord**

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

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: **Praise to You, O Christ**



HYMN

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

LSB 350

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
 Only hope for sinful mortals!
 Come, O Savior of the world!
 Open are to Thee all portals.
 Come, Thy beauty let us see;
 Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,
 Glorious King and Lord most holy.
 Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
 Though I am but poor and lowly.
 Ah, what riches will be mine
 When Thou art my guest divine!
- 3 My hosannas and my palms
 Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
 Evermore, as best I can,
 Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
 And in faith I will embrace,
 Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
 Jesus, hear our supplication!
 Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
 Bring us blessing and salvation,
 That forever we may sing:
 Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845
 1923, alt. Text: Public domain

*Please Be Seated***SERMON**

“Light of the World”

*Pastor Bob Hauter***OFFERING***Of the Father's Love Begotten – Solo – Ruth DePalma*

Please Stand

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

(Additional petitions are added)

Pastor: ...let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises we are bold to pray

People: **Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Pastor: Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk I darkness, but will have the light of life."

People: **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.**

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

Please Be Seated

HYMN "Angels from the Realms Of Glory" *LSB 367*

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

△ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ternal Three in One. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE

Officiant – Rev Nick Shults
Sermon – Rev Bob Hauter
Organist – Shirley Ranus
Soloist – Ruth DePalma

Please join us next week for our Second Advent Midweek Service!

*Bethany Lutheran Church
1802 Sheridan Road
Pueblo, CO 81001*

*6pm – Dinner
7pm - Worship*