



The Light of the World (I)

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”
(John 1:14)*

Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For he has visited and redeemed his people.

**And has raised up a horn of salvation for us,
In the house of his servant David.**

(Luke 1:68-69)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Psalm 95

O come, let us joyfully
sing to the LORD;
To the Rock of salvation
let us raise our voice.
Let us come before him
expressing our thanks;
Let us with loud singing
praise him and rejoice.

The LORD is the great God,
King over all gods.
The earth's deepest places
he holds in his hand;
The heights of the mountains
belong to the LORD.
The oceans are his,
and he formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow humbly
and worship the LORD;
Let us kneel before him,
our Maker, in prayer.
For we are his people
and he is our God;
He shepherds and feeds us
in his loving care.

Today if you hear
and attend to his voice,
Don't harden your hearts
as you did on the way;
In Meribah's desert
you quarrelled with me,
You tested my patience
at Massah that day.

Your fathers provoked me
and tested me there,
Although they had witnessed
the works I had done.
With that generation
for forty long years
My deep indignation
continued to burn.

I said, "They're a people
whose hearts go astray;
They do not acknowledge
that my ways are best."
And so, in my anger,
I stated on oath,
"I swear that they never
shall enter my rest."

Sing Psalms

Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

Let us therefore confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful God, we confess to you that we are by nature
sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought,
word, and deed; not only in outward transgressions,
but also in secret thoughts and desires that we are not able to understand,
but which are all known to You. For this reason, we flee for refuge to Your infinite
mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him
was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we
like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD
has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53:5-6)*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine own sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

Charles Wesley

God's Word

First Reading: 2 Sam 7:1–11, 16–17, p. 259

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Psalm 89:1–4, 19–29

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”

Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: “I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.
The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him.

I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’

And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.

I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age. Amen!**

Second Reading: John 1:1–18, p. 886

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Light of the World (I) (Mark Payne)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel !

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer,
Our Spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

J. M. Neale (1851)

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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. 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.

Please be seated.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

Holy, Holy, Holy,

Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.

Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine, you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are members of his body. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)

Psalm 90b

Return, O Lord!
How long will you delay?
Have mercy on your servants,
Lord, we pray.
O satisfy us
with your love always,
That we may sing,
rejoicing all our days.

In place of our affliction,
make us glad;
Give joy for all the years
you made us sad.

To all your servants
may your deeds be shown,
And to their children
make your glory known.

Now may the favour of
Almighty God
Abide on us—
rich blessings of our Lord.
Establish every work
our hands have done;
Yes, Lord, for us
establish them each one.

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the Name of Christ, Amen.
