

JANUARY 26, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



The light of Christ shines on the people.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 9:1-4	A new day is coming
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Divisions in the church
Wednesday	Isaiah 42:1-9	A light to the nations
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	Treasure in clay jars
Friday	John 8:12-20	Jesus is the light of the world
Saturday	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	Trust in God
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Isaiah 9:2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you who reject sin and death, bring light and life to your world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

May this gift of food remind us of your light that shines in the world. We pray for all those in need of food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ shine on you and be your strength and salvation. (Psalm 27:1)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Christ, Be Our Light



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does the word “hope” mean to you? What gives you hope?
- In the Bible “light” refers to the presence of God bringing life and hope. Where have you seen the light of God in the world?
- Good leaders find hope and direction in difficult situations. How does Jesus lead with hope that gives his followers clear direction?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 4:12-23.

The Epiphany season continues with a focus on the reign of God fulfilled in Jesus. His reign challenges every power and authority on earth. Jesus begins his public ministry when hearing of the arrest of John the Baptist by the governing powers. He moves from Nazareth to Capernaum which is located in Zebulun and Naphtali, land dominated by foreign powers from the time of the Assyrians down to the Greeks and then the Romans. “[T]he people who sat in darkness have seen a great light” (v. 16). Jesus’ reign brings life, not death, light, not darkness. In Jesus the work and will of God shines brightly. He gathers disciples and leads people into God’s reign of life and hope: “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people” (v. 23). Where do you experience the light of Christ in your life today?

Pray: **The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus began his ministry in Galilee. He began calling disciples to help him “proclaim the good news of the kingdom and cure every disease and sickness among the people” (Matthew 4:23b). Jesus still needs help today to do the same. As a follower of Jesus, in what ways do you proclaim the good news to others and help cure diseases and sickness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Draw a candle to symbolize the light of Christ in the center of a sheet of paper and write “Christ” inside the candle. Write names of people you know who are of other races, backgrounds or cultures around the candle. Read the names. What makes each one different from you? What makes them the same? Read 1 Corinthians 1:10. Paul describes divisions between the people and wants them to be united in the same mind and the same purpose (v.10). What does this mean for Christians today?



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org