

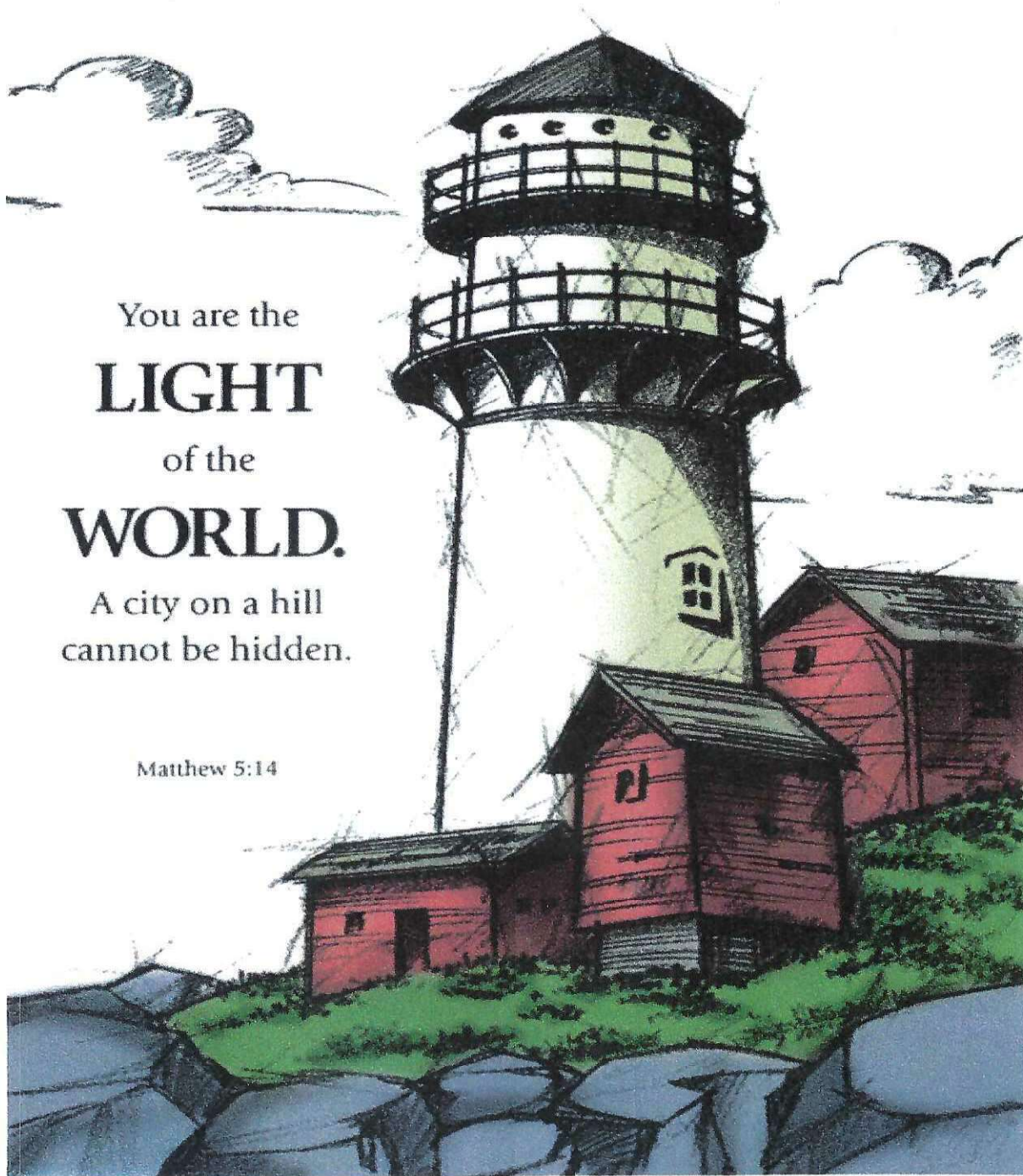
Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

You are the
LIGHT
of the
WORLD.

A city on a hill
cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:14



5th Sunday of Epiphany
SHINING GOD'S WISDOM
February 8, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: SHINING GOD'S WISDOM

In today's readings from God's Word, we are reminded that the light and the righteousness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has shined into our hearts and into our lives. It is His light and His righteousness that shines forth from His cross and His empty tomb to save us from our sins and guide us to our heavenly home. In his first letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul speaks of this saving gospel of "Christ crucified" as the "wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory." In today's Gospel Reading, Jesus says to us: "You are the light of the world... Let your light shine." Through His holy Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God shines the light and the wisdom of Jesus into our hearts and lives again today, and He tells us to proclaim His light and His wisdom to all the world!



In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

[“Divine Service: Setting Three” from LSB p.184]

Please silence – or turn off – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.

Welcome

Opening Hymn

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

[LSB 979]

**God, whose almighty Word, chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight.
Hear us we humbly pray, and where the Gospel day, sheds not its glorious ray:
Let there be light!**

**Lord, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, healing and sight.
Health to the sick in mind. Sight to the inly blind. Oh, now to all mankind:
Let there be light!**

**Spirit of truth and love, life giving, holy dove, speed forth your flight.
Move on the water’s face, bearing the lamp of grace and in earth’s darkest place:
Let there be light!**

**Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity, wisdom, love, might!
Boundless as ocean’s tide, rolling in fullest pride, through the earth far and wide:
Let there be light!**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

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

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men**

Confession of Sins

Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 1:8-9

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 124:8

C: *(sung)* **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

Psalm 32:5

C: *(sung)* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 112:1-9

P: Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!

C: **His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

P: Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

C: **Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful and righteous.**

P: It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.

C: **For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.**

P: He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

C: **His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.**

P: He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Thy Word is a Lamp”

[LSB 973]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

**When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

**I will not forget your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Almighty God, you have called us out of darkness and into your wonderful light. Shine in our hearts so that we will show forth your love, your forgiveness, and your praise in all the world; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Isaiah 58:1-9a

“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God. ‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?”

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word (O Lord) is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105**

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” – these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word (O Lord) is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.** Psalm 119:105

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Matthew 5:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to his disciples:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. 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.”

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

“O Word of God Incarnate”

LSB 523

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance, that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

**The Church from You, dear Master, received the gift divine.
And still that light is lifted, o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass, that all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ, to You.**

**O make Your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold,
To bear before the nations, Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims, by this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face!**

Sermon

SHINING GOD'S WISDOM

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Offertory (*sung*)

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering (*Greet those seated near you. You may say, "The peace of the Lord be with you."*)

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.

Prayers

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: (*sung*) And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: (*sung*) We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Psalm 136

C: *(sung)* **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, and now we praise you that you sent us your only-begotten Son and that in him, being found in fashion as a man, you manifested the fullness of your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He. Blessed is He. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

ALL: 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.

Words of Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread . . .

In the same way also he took the cup after supper . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

C: *(sung)* **A - - - - - men.**

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.... A - - - - - men.

**O Christ, our true and only light, enlighten those who sit in night.
Let those afar now hear Your voice, and in Your fold with us rejoice.**

**Fill with the radiance of Your grace, the souls now lost in error's maze.
Enlighten those whose inmost minds, some dark delusion haunts and blinds.**

**O gently call those gone astray, that they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed, in You find peace and heav'nly rest.**

**Shine on the darkened and the cold. Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart. Confirm the weak and doubting heart.**

**That they with us may evermore, such grace with wond'ring thanks adore,
And endless praise to You be giv'n, by all Your Church in earth and heav'n.**

“Spread the Reign of God the Lord”

LSB 830

**Spread the reign of God the Lord, spoken, written, mighty Word.
Ev'rywhere His creatures call, to His heav'nly banquet hall.**

**Tell how God the Father's will, made the world, upholds it still.
How His own dear Son He gave, us from sin and death to save.**

**Tell of our Redeemer's grace, who, to save our human race,
And to pay rebellion's price, gave Himself as sacrifice.**

**Tell of God the Spirit giv'n, now to guide us on to heav'n.
Strong and holy, just and true, working both to will and do.**

**Enter, mighty Word, the field. Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh how few, for the work there is to do!**

**Lord of harvest, great and kind, rouse to action heart and mind.
Let the gath'ring nations all, see Your light and heed Your call.**

**On Galilee's high mountain, Christ gave the great command,
In words of strength and promise, which all can understand:
"All pow'r to Me is given, to do what I shall choose."
"Therefore I send My children, their witness I will use."**

**The Lord who, born of Mary, came down as man and died,
Who preached to all who listened, for us was crucified –
This Lord, our living brother, in pow'r at God's right hand,
Has chosen us to carry, His truth to ev'ry land.**

**His strength within my weakness, will make me bold to say,
How His redeeming power, transforms my stubborn clay.
His touch of fire ignites me, with courage I am sent.
My tongue-tied silence broken, with grace made eloquent.**

**And not alone to nations, in far away retreats,
But ev'rywhere I broadcast, His love through crowded streets.
The lives that my life touches, however great or small –
Let them through me see Jesus, who served and saved us all.**

**That ev'ryone He chooses, for reasons of His own,
Will find in Christ his calling, to live His love alone.
His presence always leads us, till time no more shall be.
Christ's strength, His love, His comfort, give us His victory.**

**(STAND) Lord, gather all Your children, wherever they may be,
And lead them on to heaven, to live eternally.
With You, our loving Father, and Christ, our brother dear,
Whose Spirit guards and gives us, the joy to persevere.**

Nunc Dimittis (*sung*)

Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people; a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: *(sung)* A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn

“Christ the Eternal Lord”

LSB 829 (v.1-4)

**Christ the eternal Lord, whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured, on all who name Your name.
With thankfulness and praise, we stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days, and make Your glory known.**

**Christ the unchanging Word, to ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard, set forth on Scripture's page.
Transform our thought and mind, enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find, the bread of life indeed.**

**Christ the redeeming Son, who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won, for ev'ry child of earth.
Inspire our hearts, we pray, to tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today, and follow Him as Lord.**

**Christ the unfading Light, of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright, the Life, the Truth, the Way.
That light of truth You give, to servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live, till earth's brief journey ends.**

<p>CLC MISSION STATEMENT: “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God’s Word, sharing God’s love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”</p>
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