

JESUS, OUR WAY, OUR TRUTH, OUR LIGHT

**Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will proclaim Your praise;
for You do not delight in sacrifices:
if I offered You a burnt offering, it would not please You.
The true sacrifice is a broken spirit:
a contrite and humble heart, O God, You will not refuse.**

During the forty days of Lent we make use of the time given us to ascertain our relationship with the Lord Jesus. How committed am I to my baptismal vows and to my confirmation pledge? How do I model the life and virtues of Jesus in my everyday living? In what aspects have I succeeded and in what do I need more growth?

PRESENCE of GOD

We pause and in silence remember that we live and move and have our being in our God in Whose light we live our lives and journey to the Holy One.

HYMN: Christ Be Our Light

**Christ be our light/ Shine in our hearts/ Shine through our darkness/
Christ be our light/ Shine in Your church
As we gather today.**

FIRST READING – John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

SECOND READING - 1 Thessalonians 5:4

Brothers and sisters, you are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day.

PSALM [27](#): THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND SALVATION.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND SALVATION.

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living. One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND SALVATION.

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 5:14–16

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a light to put it under a basket; they put it on the lamp stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of all people, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.

REFLECTION

Jesus Christ is both the Light and the Life of the world because He is literally the ultimate source of light and life to all living things. He's also the source of spiritual light and truth, a light that quickens our understanding because of His teachings and His perfect example that prepared and lit the way for us to return to live with God again one day. The Light of Christ is also something we can have within us, if we believe in and follow Jesus Christ. It's a source of inspiration. It allows us to know truth. It's an influence to do good acts for the right reasons. It helps us to know right from wrong. The Light of Christ manifests itself in what we call our *conscience*.

OUR PRAYER

1. May the light of Christ direct and guide me in the days to come, transforming my inner vision to see clearly my own journey with all humankind as a journey of hope and bloneness, we pray:

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT.

2. May God be Someone to lean on in my weak or painful moments. May I know God as my Rock, my Shelter, my Strength, my Comfort and Support, we pray: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT.

1. May I be aware of all the places my feet will carry me in the days ahead. May I know “how beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news”, we pray: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT.

2. May I be the one with a “welcome” in my smile and a “hello” etched upon my hand, the hand I extend to everyone who blesses me with their presence, we pray: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT.

1. May I have a reverence for all of creation. May I face bravely and enthusiastically the responsibility to preserve and care for the beauty of Earth, we pray: CHRIST BE OR LIGHT.

2. May the wellsprings of compassion flow deep within me until I can taste the tears of my sisters and brothers, we pray: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT.

1. May I awake each morning with a “Thank You” on my lips and in my heart, recognizing that all is gift, that all is blessing, we pray: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT.

2. May my friendship with God be strong and healthy. May that love be both a comfort and a challenge as I struggle to continue to find my way along my personal path to my God, we pray: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT.

1. May my spirit be open and perceptive in discovering the will of God. May my prayer be that of wisdom, guidance, and a deep understanding of God’s way for me, we pray: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT.

(Adapted from: May I Have This Dance, by Joyce Rupp)

Leader: Christ, You are my Light. You light up my days, fill me with joy, and show me the way. Fill me with hope, fill me with peace, fill me with love that is gentle and free.

**All: You, Lord Jesus, love us with an everlasting love and suffered and died that we may enjoy etenal life hereafter with our God. You gave us the Gift of Yourself in Word, Scrament and One Another as spiritual food and drink for our journey to the Lord. Let us use this time well for He says, “In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6:2**

**Lord, by Your Cross and Resurrection,
You have set us free. You are the Savior of this world!**

