

March 17, 2021

Lectionary Passages:

Psalm 107:1-16

Isaiah 60:15-22

John 8:12-20

Selected Verses:

Some sat in darkness and in gloom,
prisoners in affliction and in irons,
for they had rebelled against the words of God,
and spurned the counsel of the Most High.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;
he brought them out of darkness and gloom,
and broke their bonds asunder. – Psalm 60: 10-11, 13-14

The sun shall be no more
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give light to you by night;
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory. – Isaiah 60: 19

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” – John 8: 12

Devotional:

A few years ago, a new sign went up along I-84 as you enter Pendleton. Caution: Possible Solar Glare. The solar farm built on Airport Hill can cause solar glare in the early mornings. For a brief moment, people can be blinded by the sunlight reflecting off the solar panels. For the rest of the day and night, the sign gives warning for something most people miss. Yet, if you are there at the right moment, the light can be blinding.

Most the time, we don't think about light. We live in a world where there is light everywhere. In fact, we can choose the color of light we want. With the invention of LED lighting, we can choose the color of light we have. If you are working on your computer, it is best to have a little blue in the light. If you are doing handwork, it is better to have yellow. When shopping for lightbulbs today, picking the color of “white” light is part of the decision. While there have always been different shades of white paint, there are now different varieties of light.

Yet, even with the variety of light, this past year seems to be a year of darkness. With more and more receiving the coronavirus vaccine, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. There is a glimpse that we will come out of the darkness and return to life. Using light in this



way is using it as a metaphor. We have lived in darkness, and the light of the pandemic ending is coming.

Even so, without salvation through Jesus Christ, people are walking in darkness. Isaiah tells us that even the light of the sun is dim compared to the light of the Son of God. Any other light is darkness compared to the light given by Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." This light is brighter than the sun, purer than any LED light, giving life to those in darkness.

Jesus does not say, "I am a light." One of the first things we need to realize is that Jesus says, "I am THE Light." There might be other people, thoughts, teachings that may lead people, but Jesus is the only true light that is from the beginning. Jesus is the light.

Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus came for all people. Who do you know that is still in the darkness and needs to experience the light of salvation available in Jesus Christ? Or maybe you are still trying to get around by the lights offered by the world today. When we have received the light of Jesus, we are given life.

When the light of Jesus shines on his followers, they will reflect His light and salvation to the world. Maybe followers of Jesus should have a sign that reads, "Caution: Possible Solar Glare." May we reflect Jesus' light through our lives.

Prayer:

Divine Light, illuminating our shadows and darkness, we turn to you in hope and fear. We long to be freed from times of bewildering darkness, when depression and despair haunt our days and perplex our nights. We hope for clear answers and readily marked paths. Loving God, Healing Light, remind us that you desire not our punishment, but our salvation. Your light is gracious and brings insight and renewal, hope and blessing. Restore our courage and make us your light for others. Amen.