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# TODAY'S NEWS

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## Prelude



## Lighting the Candles

### The Invitation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

Did Jesus light our  
Lamps to hide us under  
a basket, building, or  
label?

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## **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Special Music**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.



## **Morning Prayer**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name:

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit baptized Jesus in mercy. Through Christ you reveal  
to us, and the world, the Way Your Grace overflows with  
unconditional Love.

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**Believing in Jesus  
is not the same  
as soaking in his  
mercy, grace,  
and love.**

Robert

**Immerse our suffering in Christ's mercy. Lead us to be Merciful people who receive the measure we give. Teach us justice that reconciles heaven and earth through Christ Jesus, our King. Amen**

## Lord's Prayer

## Scripture Reading

**14** "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

## Special Music

## Message

Jesus says, "You are the Light of the World." The following are a few of the responses I have heard to Jesus' Word.

- The poor in spirit say, "No, not me."
- The selfish person says, "I knew he would pick me."
- The arrogant person says, "I tried to tell you that life revolves around me."
- When the Disciples recognized he was speaking about their little group. They argued among themselves about who is the greatest.

Before His Word goes to our heads maybe we need to hear him out. "No one lights a lamp and places it beneath a basket." This may come as a shock. Jesus tells his disciples they are lamps. He made our lamps from clay. He put a wick inside our lamp. Surely we have experiences that prove our hearts and minds to be like a wick. We soak up good, bad, blessings, curses, and apathy. He is the one who makes sure our lamps get lit, trimmed, and filled.

Have you noticed that more and more people are soaking up Politics. Today is Super Bowl Sunday. How many people do you know that will spend the day soaking up football. We get a good idea of what our neighbors soak up by their labels: Gamblers, Foodies, Fashionistas, Bloggers, Motor-heads, Hackers...

Pharisees soak up the Law of Moses and the Prophets. Their light shines on immoral people. They teach students of the Law works righteous acts that promise to make them culturally acceptable. They soak up rituals, sacred holidays, and practices designed to make them look holy on the outside.

Sadducees soak up the Law of Moses. Their light shines on people who break the Law. They judge which of the 613 Laws their neighbors broke. Their sole purpose is to decide how to punish the person.

Hear the Good News: Jesus suffered, died, and rose again. Have you considered how much Politicians, Sport's Fans, Gamblers...Pharisees and Sadducees have in common with Jesus. We all suffer. We all die. We all look for new life.

Believing in Jesus is not the same as soaking in his mercy, grace, and love. Being baptized in water is not the same as being immersed in mercy and grace until our souls overflow with Love. We break the communion bread and dip it in the cup to remind us to soak our broken hearts and judgmental minds in his mercy. He is servant of all. We are lamps that Light His Way.

- Jesus says, the greatest is the servant of all. He is the One Who serves mercy.
- Lord, make me a Lamp that shines the Light of the World. Soak my moral heart and judgmental mind in Christ's Healing - Mercy. Send your Holy Spirit with Fire. Make me a lamp that lights the world that you Love to serve. Amen

## Holy Communion

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the Light of the World.

**Amen.**

**Tithes and Offerings**

**Postlude**