

JANUARY 25, 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

*Jesus lights our way, calling us to follow him.*

## 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	Psalm 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.



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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 what ways does Jesus give his followers hope?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 4:12-23.

The Epiphany season continues with a focus on the reign of God made complete 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. The land had been dominated by foreign powers from the time of the Assyrians down to the Greeks and then the Romans. Now, through Jesus, “*the 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).

*Discuss:* 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 calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give hope to someone in need?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Epiphany is a season that emphasizes the light of Christ in the world so that we may follow Jesus without fear. Make a list of things that can make you afraid. Light a candle and name these fears aloud.

*After each fear is named say: “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?” (Psalm 27:1).*

*At the end, pray: As we face our fears remind us that you are with us through the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who calls us to live free of our fears and anxieties. Amen.*