



Liturgy Cycle A

Third Sunday Of The Year **A Light Shines In The Year**

Introduction

St Matthew describes Christ's mission like this: 'The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light'. We too live in a world darkened by violence, injustice, hatred, war and death. We desperately need the light of Christ, both in our individual and in the world as a whole

First Reading (Isaiah 8: 23-9:3)

The prophet predicts future glory for an oppressed people: light will replace darkness; joy will replace sorrow; and freedom will replace oppression.

Second Reading (1Cor 1:10-13.17)

This shows that even among the first Christians there were divisions. But Paul urges unity in Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 4: 12-23)

That wonderful prophecy of Isaiah is seen as being fulfilled in Christ.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may be able to see the light of Christ, welcome it with joy into our lives, and share it with others.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the church: that it may never forget its glorious task to ensure that the light of Christ for all to see.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all political leaders: that they may be untiring in their efforts to ensure that the light of peace shines for those who live in the darkness of war and strife.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That the light of Christ may shine into our hearts, brighten our lives, and through us radiate to others.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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That the light of Christ may shine gently on all our departed friends and relatives.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

**To be a source of light in the world
one doesn't need to be either famous and rich.
All one needs is a warm heart.**

**A few years ago a poor unemployed couple
from Dallas, Texas, went out one morning
looking for aluminium beer tins
which they hoped to sell for recycling.
In one bin they made a very sad discovery.
They found the body of a baby.**

**Greatly saddened, they led agitation
to ensure that the unknown baby
got a decent funeral.
Thanks to their efforts,
the baby went to its final resting place
in a white coffin decked with flowers.**

**But the whole thing cost quite a bit of money,
money they could ill afford.
The wife pawned her only valuable possession,
a diamond engagement ring,
to help pay the funeral expenses.**