

“I have come as **a light into the world**, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.” – John 12:46



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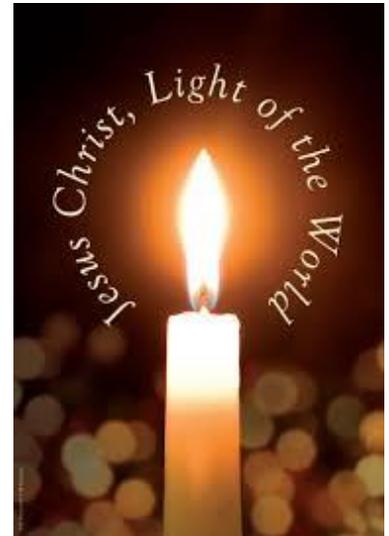
# Light in the Church and our Lives

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

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# Introduction

- “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (Jn. 8:12)
- “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (Jn. 9:5)
- “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” (Jn. 12:35-36)



**Why do we light  
candles before  
the icons?**



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# Our faith is light



- “I am the Light of the world.” (Jn. 8:12)
  - “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (Jn. 1:4-5)
  - “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.” (Rev. 22:5)
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# Radiant Character

- God wants us to reflect His light to the world
- “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:14-16)



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# Radiant Character

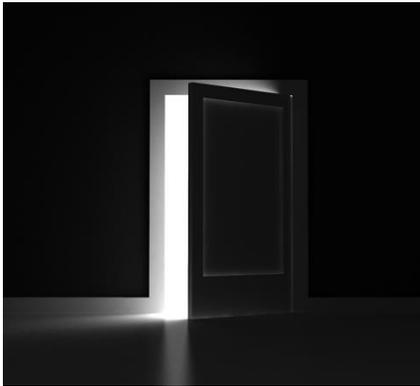
- God wants to use His light within us to war against darkness
- “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, **against the rulers of the darkness of this age**, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph. 6:12)



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# Reminder of our Darkness

- “But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?” (Gal.4:9)



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# Reminder of Sacrifice

- Of the necessity for our small sacrifices
  - “He was rich but he became poor for our sake, so that we might be enriched by His poverty.” (2 Cor. 8:9)
  - *“He took what is ours and gave us what is His.”* (Coptic Psalmody, Friday Theotokia)
  - Reminder of His sacrifice
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# Casting out of Darkness



- “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.”  
(Eph. 3:11-13)
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# Rouses us to selflessness

- The oil and wick are burned as we will, so too should our submission to God's will.
- EX: Good Samaritan



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# Summary

## Lighting candles before icons

1. Our faith is light
  2. Radiant Character
  3. Reminder of our darkness
  4. Reminder of sacrifice
  5. Casting out of darkness
  6. Rouses us to selflessness
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