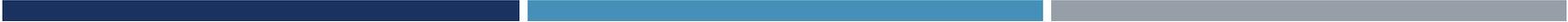


**“I HAVE COME AS A LIGHT INTO THE
WORLD.” – JOHN 12:46**



I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

4TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

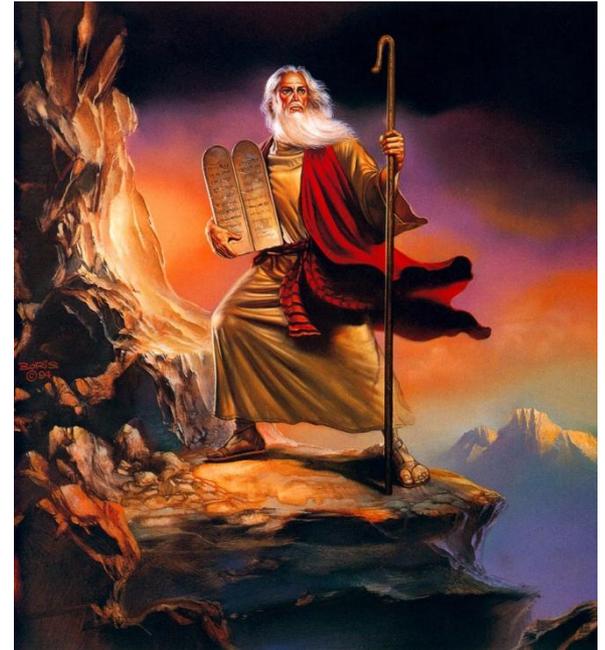


INTRODUCTION

- *“...in the last days You manifested Yourself to us who were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death.”* (Liturgy of St. Basil)
- **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.”** (Gen. 1:1-3)
- **“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...”** (2 Pet. 1:19)
- **What darkness was overcome by the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and His glorious resurrection?**

DARKNESS OF IGNORANCE

- Before the Lord Christ
 - **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”** (Hos. 4:6)
 - **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...”** (Heb. 1:1-2)
- After the Lord Christ
 - **“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”** (1 Cor. 3:16)



DARKNESS OF IGNORANCE

- St. Paul
 - **“...concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”** (Phil. 3:6)
 - **“But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.”** (2 Cor. 3:14)
 - **“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”** (2 Cor. 4:6)

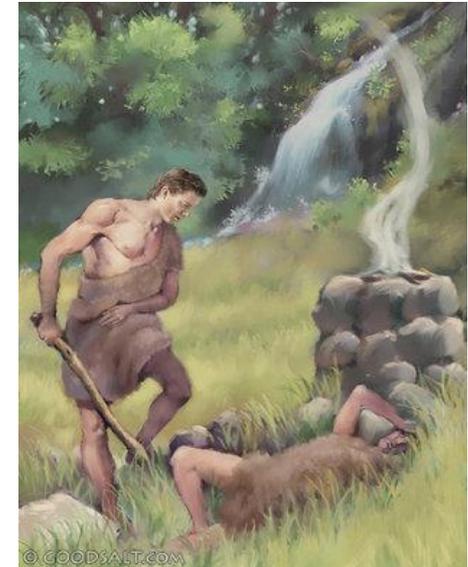


DARKNESS OF IGNORANCE OR LIGHT OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE

- **“I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”** (Jn. 12:46-48)

DARKNESS OF SIN

- Sin is separation from God
- Darkness of sin is blinding
 - Anger/Hatred
 - Love of money
 - Passions
 - **So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you.”** (Judg. 16:6)



DARKNESS OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Before the Lord Christ
 - Righteousness was something gained by one's effort
 - **'God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'** (Lk. 18:11-12)
 - **"If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains."** (Jn. 9:41)
- Simon the Pharisee vs. Sinful woman



DARKNESS OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

- After the Lord Christ
 - We are made righteous through grace
 - **“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”** (1 Tim. 1:15)
 - *“For we put no trust in our righteousness, but in Your mercy, whereby You have given life to our race.”* (Prayer of the Veil, St. Basil Liturgy)
 - **“Do not be wise in your own eyes.”** (Prov. 3:7)
 - **“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”** (Prov. 14:12)

CONCLUSION

- The Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the World
 - Ignorance – True knowledge
 - Sin – freedom from the bonds of sin
 - Self-righteousness – righteousness through grace
- The Lord also invites us to share His light
 - **“You are the light of the world.”** (Matt. 5:14)
 - **“...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...”** (Phil. 2:15)