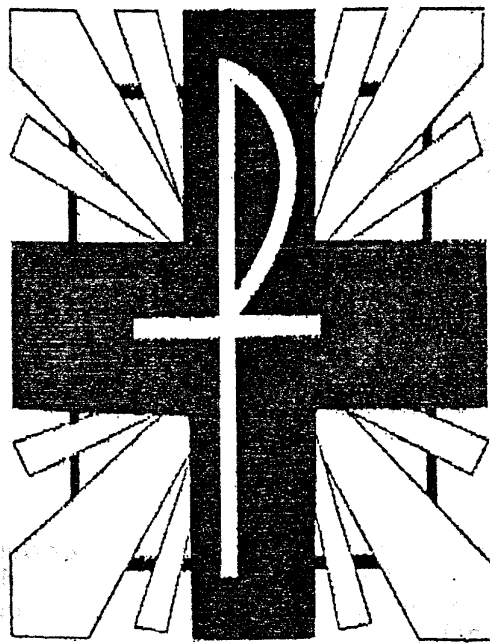

A Light to Lighten Our Darkness

*An Occasion for
Prayer, Hope, and Remembrance
After the Events of
September 11th, 2001*



*“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted,
but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;
always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that
the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.”*

II Corinthians 4: 8 -10

OPENING
The Rev. Dr. Robert F. Scholz
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
New York City

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Hear us, good Lord.**

P: Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, rest the weary, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. Grant us all this, in your abundant mercy and abiding love.

C: **Hear us, good Lord.**

P: Hear the cries of your people, O God, and shelter with your Spirit those families and friends directly devastated by the terror and disasters of these recent days. Bless the work of those who search for victims and survivors; and bestow your strength and compassion upon those who provide rescue and medical care. Sustain them with courage and protect them in safety, so that they and we may be agents of hope and ambassadors of peace.

C: **Hear us, good Lord.**

P: Lord, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant wisdom to the leaders of all nations that governments and people may seek concord and reconciliation where now they are divisions and strife. Look with mercy upon this nation and bestow upon the people your merciful care, that we may live securely in peace and be guided by your providence; Help us to be lovers of truth and peace; enable us to be agents of healing and hope.

C: **Hear us, good Lord.**

P: Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and dispose our days in your peace. Prosper the labors of those who take counsel for the nations of the world, that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all people.

C: **Hear us, good Lord.**

P: Hear the prayers of your people, O God, and remind us of your steadfast love in all times and circumstances, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem: (Afternoon)

Children's Choir, St. Matthew's Lutheran School, New York, New York

Evening Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory (LBW 415)

THE REV. H. GEORGE ANDERSON
Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE REV. GERALD KIESCHNICK
President, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

GATHERING

- P: The people who walk in darkness shall see a great light.
C: **Those who dwell in a land of suffering shall be freed.**
- P: On that day, the Lord God shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and death and mourning shall never be again.
C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P: Let us pray for all whose lives are touched by fear and grief:
Savior of all people, may your blessing again light the way of your people that we may walk in safety.
C: **Give us your love to cast away the works of darkness and put on the garment of light.**
- P: We pray for ourselves, our nation and our world.
C: **Give us faith that we might stand in witness to the light of Christ Jesus, who comes to set us free.**
- P: Give us the courage of hope that our lives may be witness to the Gospel and the power of life that is yours alone.
C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Hymn: God, Whose Almighty Word (LBW 400)

THE WORD IS SHARED

Psalm 46 (read responsively)

God is our refuge and strength,
a **very present help in trouble.**
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the **mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**
though its waters roar and foam,
though the **mountains tremble with its tumult.**
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the **holy habitation of the Most High.**
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will **help it when the morning dawns.**
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
He **utters his voice, the earth melts.**
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He **breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;**
He **burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.
 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Anthem: Shall We Gather - Applachian arr. Copeland
 Solo, Joe Chappel, Bass (afternoon)

Peace - Timothy P. Schulz
 Members of Concordia College Choir, Bronxville, NY (evening)

Second Reading: Romans 8: 18-28, 31-39

Reflection The Rev. Dr. David Benke, President
 Atlantic District,
 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Hymn: *My Lord, What A Morning*

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall

1 You'll hear the trum-pet sound,
 2 You'll hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der-ground,
 3 You'll hear the Chris-tian shout,

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall

Refrain

Gospel: John 11: 17 - 44

Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Bouman, Bishop
Metropolitan New York Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Hymn: *Built on a Rock* (LBW 365)

- P: Let us pray for the people of God and for all those in need of God's help and comfort:
Holy and mighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit blowing across the dark waters of chaos and brought forth light, dry land, and life. We pray for those who need the gift of your Spirit in the face of unimagined chaos. God of hopefulness,
- C: **Comfort your people.**
- P: Loving God, your children are hurt by the unexpected acts of evil around them. Comfort those who mourn; heal those who have been hurt and wounded; make safe those who have been betrayed and lost trust in people and the world around them. God of hopefulness,
- C: **Comfort your people.**
- P: We pray for our leadership, President Bush, the Congress, and all those who serve our country, that they may be guided by your wisdom and mercy. God of hopefulness,
- C: **Comfort your people.**
- P: We pray for all those who work to save the lives of the injured. We pray for the safety of those who work in fire and rescue and law enforcement, even as we give thanks to you for their courage and ask that you continue to uphold them. God of hopefulness,
- C: **Comfort your people.**
- P: We pray for those who work to heal the injured and comfort the dying. We pray for all of the nurses, doctors, EMT's, and personnel and ask that you give them endurance, strength, and healing compassion. God of hopefulness,
- C: **Comfort your people.**
- P: We pray for those who have died and commend them into your hands, O God. Hold them in your mercy and receive them into Christ's peace. Comfort their families. Give them courage and strength in the long days ahead of waiting and grief. God of hopefulness,
- C: **Comfort your people.**
- P: We pray for all those who serve and work to care for people affected by disaster. Give them the gifts of compassion and hopeful hearts as they minister in hard and difficult places. Sustain them as visible signs of your love. God of hopefulness,
- C: **Comfort your people.**

P: We pray that you would use us in your service: our time and talents, our prayers and support, and the possessions you have lent us. Help us to be generous that our hands and feet may be the hands and feet of Christ to those in need. God of hopefulness,

C: **Comfort your people.**

P: Give us courage and strength to stand against all sin; conviction of hope in the face of evil; and help us to pursue peace. God of hopefulness,

C: **Comfort your people.**

P: We put these needs and all others into your hands, O God, trusting in your grace and mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

P: We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. May you find strength and courage in their presence.

C: **Amen**

P: The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour. May you be freed from all sin and protected from all evil.

C: **Amen**

P: Christ has run the good race of faith and finished the course. May you run with perseverance the race set before you.

C: **Amen**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever

C: **Amen**

Hymn: O God Our Help in Ages Past (LBW 320)