



Sermon Study Guide for February 8, 2026

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The City on a Hill

When you go up a hill, you see the City atop it. We have the opportunity to let our light shine before others. Why do we do so? So that others may see the true Light!

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Have you ever climbed a mountain? Or even just a really tall hill? Or even just a hill in general? What were you looking for? What did you put your focus on to keep you going?
2. Where is the darkest place you've ever been? What was it like?
3. A few years ago we had a major storm that knocked out power for most of the greater Lansing area. Maybe you lost power, maybe you didn't. If you ever have lost power, what was the first thing you tried to find in your house? Why?

In the Word: Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

4. Paul reminds the people of Corinth how he shared the message of Jesus with them. How did he do so? What is the focus of the message of Paul? (V.1-5)
5. What encouragement does Paul give to not just the people of Corinth, but to us reading today about sharing the Gospel? (V. 1b)

In the Word: Read Matthew 5:13-20

6. Jesus starts this section that follows the 'beatitudes' with talking about salt. The people would have known the uses of salt. Preservation of food, adding flavor, etc. How do those definitions help us to see how we should speak as Christians? (Don't be salty!)

7. Jesus then goes on to talk about light. Where the people are at, there would have been a city close by that shone brightly at night that many could see. What kind of a visual does that give those around Jesus, and us as we think about the 'city on a hill'?

8. Whenever I teach the 6th and 7th graders about being an acolyte, they are sometimes amazed about how to put out the candles. You place the bell of the candle lighter over it, the oxygen is sucked out, and the fire goes away. People would know not to light a lamp and put a bowl over it. Why does Jesus use this example?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

9. I've always been intrigued by the balance, the relation, the struggle of light and darkness. Sin brought darkness into our world. It shrouded Adam and Eve in death, when God had to sacrifice an animal to clothe them. Where do you see the darkness of sin in our world today?

10. Darkness is overcome by light immediately. When you light a match in the dark, the darkness is gone. When you turn on a light switch, the darkness is gone. When Jesus rose from the dead, He dispelled the dark. How can the light of Jesus shine through you? How can the light you shine help dissipate the darkness?

11. Jesus is the light of the world! Thanks be to God for that! Knowing that. Knowing what Paul encourages in 1 Corinthians, how does that give you confidence and courage to share that light of Christ to people in your life?

Prayer: Thank God for sending Jesus, the Light of the world, to save us from darkness. Thank Jesus for conquering sin, death, the devil, and all darkness in his life, death, and resurrection. Thank Jesus that the darkness CANNOT overcome the light. Ask God to help you shine brightly as the 'city on a hill' in all that you do. Ask God for the courage to share His light in all that you do.

Next Week: Seeing Jesus in a New Light—Transfiguration of Jesus

Peter, James, and John got to see Jesus in a whole new light on the mount of transfiguration. Jesus is just what the prophets foretold and more than we can imagine.