

*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.* - Revelation 22:17

Christians are imperfect reflections of Jesus' true light. We are not perfect; far from it. We still struggle with the darkness around us and inside us. But we have been forgiven by God through the sacrifice of Jesus. And that makes all the difference.

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.* - 1 John 1:5-7

## Come Find Loving Light

Would you like to know a God who loves us even when we fail? A God who would send his Son to die in our dark world so that we could live in his light? A God who expects nothing from us but to receive his love as a free gift? Then please get in touch with us, so we can share more of the love we have found in Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son.

**FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT**  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
855 Jarry Street West  
Montreal, QC

### LOCATED

3 blocks east of de l'Acadie  
on the corner of d'Outremont

Across from Parc-école Barclay  
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Just a kilometre from the interchange of  
Autoroute 15 and 40 and from  
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**VERSION FRANCAIS DISPONIBLE**

# A Light in the Darkness



"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

John 12:46

## Stumbling in the Dark

Emma woke in the middle of the night and heard a sound near the front door. Not wanting to wake anyone, she got out of bed without turning on the light. She took two steps, then her toe hit the metal post of the bed. The pain was terrible!

*If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles.* - John 11:9-10

Without light it's hard to see where we are going. We can easily stumble and fall. We don't trust each other, we fight with people we love, we lose hope, and sometimes wonder if there's a point in going on. We get sick, we lose our jobs, we lose loved ones to death. Jesus of Nazareth, two thousand years ago, taught that this world is in darkness. The darkness is around us and within us.

*In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* - John 1:4-5

But Jesus also taught that he was the Light of the World. He came to live in our darkness and even suffer death so that we could know God, and finally be able to see life as God originally intended it. Jesus was no mere man or prophet, but God's only begotten Son come to set us free from darkness to live in the light.

## Dim and Blinking Lights

- "The church I grew up in was filled with people who said one thing and did another."
- "Our pastor ended up being accused of abusing kids. I'll never go to a church again."
- "I'm Muslim, and was always taught that Christians worship a false idea of God."

**T**here are many misunderstandings about the true teachings of Jesus out there. Some churches see Jesus as another lawgiver, urging us to be better people. Others see him as a prophet, condemning some to hell and rewarding others with money and health for their faithfulness.

*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.* - 1 Timothy 1:15

There are many churches that claim to be Christian. Some are, but some have also lost their way. Jesus never promised to cure people of every disease or fix every problem. He never promised that Christians wouldn't make mistakes, or that they would never fall and hurt themselves and sometimes even each other.

## Forgiven Lights

**W**hat Jesus did promise was to wash the darkness from inside us, so it couldn't claim ownership over us anymore. He promised to feed us with himself so that even death could not hold us forever. He promised that everyone who puts their trust in him will rise to new life in a newly created world to come. He promised these things as gifts from God to be offered free of charge or requirement to every man, woman and child in the world, without exception.

