# GIVE GOD 10

DECEMBER 13, 2026

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Here is a quick way to prepare for Sunday worship during the week. Take 10 minutes to read the Sunday Gospel lesson below. The introduction to the day, prayer of the day, and faith conversation starter/ reflection questions are also included.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- One way Jesus lights up my life is by...
- An important person who has witnessed about Jesus to me is...

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## GOSPEL READING: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He
came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might
believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he
came to testify to the light.

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent
priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are
you?" 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed,
"I am not the Messiah." 21 And they asked him, "What then?
Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?"
He answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you?
Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you
say about yourself?" 23 He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They
asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither
the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" 26 John answered
them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom
you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not
worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." 28 This took place in
Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

