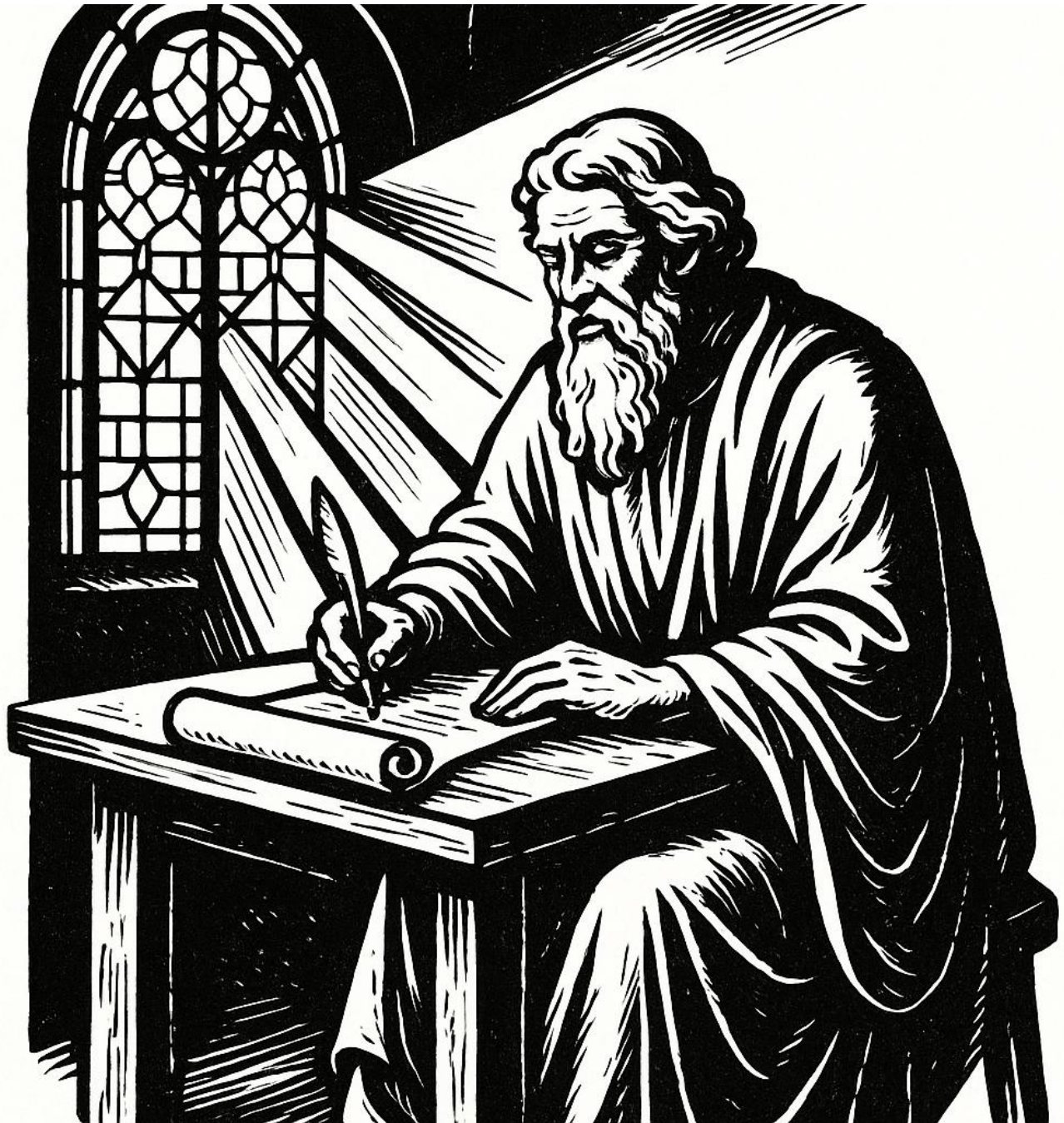


# THE FIFTH EVANGELIST:

## Ten Gospel Windows in Isaiah

Lesson 8 – Missionary Grace



Calvary Lutheran Church  
Dallas, TX  
Fall 2025

# THE FIFTH EVANGELIST:

## Ten Gospel Windows in Isaiah

*“Isaiah... foretold so many things about Christ and the Church that one would think he was composing a history of what had already happened rather than predicting events to come.” — Augustine*

Isaiah is unlike any other Old Testament prophet. He preaches judgment with fearless clarity, yet in almost the same breath unveils Gospel promises so vivid that the early Church called him **“The Fifth Evangelist.”** Long before Matthew or Mark ever wrote their accounts of Christ, Isaiah was already painting Him before our eyes: the Child born of a virgin, the Light shining in deep darkness, the Branch rising from Jesse’s stump, the Servant who would suffer for sin, the Anointed One proclaiming good news, and the God who will create a new heavens and a new earth.

The New Testament writers treat Isaiah not as background noise but as a central voice. They quote him at Jesus’ birth, ministry, passion, death, resurrection, and mission to the nations. In some ways, the Gospels feel like Isaiah in narrative form. When you study Isaiah, you are listening to the Gospel decades—centuries—before Bethlehem.

But Isaiah never proclaims the Gospel in a vacuum. Each of his Gospel promises emerges from the debris of judgment. First comes the mirror: God exposes false worship, pride, self-reliance, idolatry, and injustice. Only then comes the window: God’s astonishing grace, spoken into the very places where human efforts collapse.

This class will honor that rhythm. Each week we will encounter:

- **The Mirror — the Law’s honest diagnosis**
- **The Window — a Gospel gem, unique in its beauty**
- **The Fulfillment — how Christ completes Isaiah’s vision**
- **The Life — how this grace speaks into our world today**

We will explore **ten major Gospel windows**—ten “facets” of Isaiah’s proclamation of Christ. These ten themes form the backbone of our ten-week journey:

1. Cleansing Grace — Isaiah 1
2. Transforming Grace — Isaiah 6
3. God-With-Us Grace — Isaiah 7 & 9
4. Re-Creating Grace — Isaiah 11
5. Victorious Grace — Isaiah 25
6. Restorative Grace — Isaiah 35
7. Tender Grace — Isaiah 40
8. Missionary Grace — Isaiah 42 & 49
9. Substitutionary Grace — Isaiah 52–53
10. Transformational/New-Creation Grace — Isaiah 61 & 65

The goal is not simply to understand Isaiah’s book. It is to let Isaiah preach to us—to see how each Gospel promise in Isaiah points us to Christ and strengthens our faith today. To learn the rhythm of Law and Gospel in prophetic literature. And to deepen our own devotional life through the ancient and beautiful practice of the **Collect**—a prayer form that gathers God’s promises into a single, structured petition.

Welcome to **The Fifth Evangelist**.  
Let Isaiah show you Christ.

# LESSON EIGHT — MISSIONARY GRACE

## *Isaiah 42 & 49*

*“A light for the nations.”*

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### 1. OPENING DEVOTION & ORIENTATION

Isaiah 42 and 49 introduce the Servant of the LORD and reveal how God intends to carry His salvation into the world. After speaking comfort and forgiveness in Isaiah 40, the Lord now shows that His grace does not remain inward or private. The comfort He gives moves outward through a Servant He has chosen, upheld, and sent.

This revelation comes in the midst of continued human failure. Even after God has spoken comfort, Isaiah repeatedly exposes false trust, fear-driven idolatry, and the desire for visible, forceful deliverance. Against those expectations, the Lord presents a Servant who works quietly, treats weakness gently, and remains faithful even when the work appears slow or ineffective.

Isaiah 42 and 49 therefore challenge us to reconsider what kind of Savior we expect and how God actually brings His saving light to the nations.

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### 2. MIRROR — The Law Section

#### *Isaiah 41: When Fear Builds Its Own Saviors*

Isaiah 41 places two messages side by side:

- **Law to the nations:** self-made saviors cannot act or save.
- **Gospel to Israel:** the Lord holds the hand of the weak.

Before we hear about the Servant in Isaiah 42, this chapter exposes what the human heart looks for when fear rises. **Read Aloud...** Listen for what people do when fear spreads.

- Isaiah 41:5–7
- Isaiah 41:21–24

#### **Observation:**

⚓ What emotion spreads first in verse 5?

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⚓ What do people begin doing together in verses 6–7?

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⚓ Why must the idol be fastened down “so that it cannot move”??

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⚓ What test does the LORD give these gods in verses 21–23?

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⚓ What verdict does He give in verse 24?

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### Tracing the Pattern:

Isaiah shows a sequence: **fear → joining together → building something visible → reassuring one another → trusting what cannot save**

Discuss:

- Why does fear make people want something visible and immediate?
- Why does joining together feel like strength, even if the solution cannot actually save?
- How does shared confidence make something feel secure or true?

Write one observation:

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### Idols Then and Now

Isaiah describes physical idols made of wood and metal.

But the deeper issue is trusting anything that cannot actually act or save.

- **Around the world today**

Where do people still bow to visible idols made by human hands?

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- **In modern Western culture**

If an idol is anything trusted to secure the future or hold life together, what might function as idols today?

- What must not fail for people to feel secure?
- What do people defend as if everything depends on it?
- What solutions are treated as if they can save?

Write a few examples:

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### The Power of “Joining Together”

Verse 6: **“Each helps his neighbor and says to his brother, ‘Be strong.’”**

Discuss:

- Why does mutual reassurance feel like real security?
- When does joining together become trust in something other than the Lord?
- Why might people prefer a united visible effort to a quiet promise from God?

Write one sentence:

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## Personal Mirror

When fear rises:

⚓ What do you instinctively look to first for stability?

⚓ What makes you feel like things will hold together?

⚓ What would be hardest for you to lose?

## Juxtaposition

Read aloud:

- Isaiah 41:10
- Isaiah 41:13–14

What does the Lord promise to do for His people?

Which feels stronger:

- something visible and built
- or a promise spoken by God?

Why?

## Before the Servant Appears (Isaiah 42)

What kind of Savior do people naturally expect:

- one who looks strong and decisive,
- or one who quietly helps the weak?

What does this reveal about the human heart?

## Mirror Summary (to complete together)

Isaiah 41 exposes our tendency to trust what looks \_\_\_\_\_  
rather than the Lord who promises to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Summary:

Isaiah 41 exposes how easily fearful hearts look for strength in what can be built, reinforced, and agreed upon. We are drawn to what appears stable and decisive, even when it cannot act or save. At the same time, the Lord speaks tenderly to the weak, promising to hold and help them. This contrast reveals our struggle to trust the God who works through promise rather than visible power—and prepares us to recognize the Servant who comes not with force, but with faithful, saving light.

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### 3. WINDOW — The Gospel Section

#### Isaiah 42 & 49 — *Missionary Grace Carried by the Servant*

Isaiah 42 and 49 reveal the Lord's answer to the fears and false trusts exposed in Isaiah 41. After speaking comfort to His people, the LORD now shows how that comfort will actually reach them and extend beyond them. He introduces His Servant—not as a symbol or ideal, but as the one through whom He Himself will act. The comfort God announced does not remain a spoken promise only; it takes form in a person who is sent, upheld, and sustained by the LORD. What was declared in comfort now begins to move through the Servant's work.

This revelation comes into a world still marked by weakness and misplaced expectations. Hearts look for visible strength, decisive force, and unmistakable success. Yet the Servant the LORD presents does not resemble the saviors people expect. He does not advance by crushing opposition or displaying immediate power. He works quietly, restores gently, and remains faithful even when the work appears slow or hidden. The same God who spoke comfort now shows how His saving work will move outward through this Servant—bringing justice, restoring Israel, and shining light to the nations.

Isaiah 42 & 49 do not signal a change in God's purpose but its unfolding. The salvation announced for God's people becomes salvation extended to the world.

#### Read these portions aloud:

- **Isaiah 42:1–4** — The Servant upheld by the LORD; gentle yet faithful in bringing justice
- **Isaiah 42:6–7** — Called as covenant and light; opening blind eyes and freeing captives
- **Isaiah 49:1–6** — The Servant called and formed; sent to restore Israel and to reach the nations
- **Isaiah 49:13–16** — The LORD's enduring compassion and unforgotten people


As you listen, notice who acts, who sends, and who sustains. The Servant does not originate His own mission; He is chosen, upheld, and sent. His work moves outward—from Israel to the nations—yet it remains grounded in the LORD's faithfulness and compassion.

#### Observation:

- **The Servant's mission begins with the LORD, not with human effort or visible strength.**
  - *"Behold my servant, whom I uphold."* (42:1)
  - *"I will take you by the hand and keep you."* (42:6)
    - Where people build and reinforce what cannot save (41:5–7), the LORD sends and upholds the one who truly can.
- **His work advances through gentleness rather than force.**
  - *"A bruised reed he will not break."* (42:3)
  - *"He will faithfully bring forth justice."* (42:3)
    - Divine power moves through restoration and persistence, not through display or coercion.
- **The Servant's mission extends beyond Israel to the nations.**
  - *"I will give you as a light for the nations."* (42:6)
  - *"I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."* (49:6)
    - From the beginning, God's saving purpose is outward-moving, not contained.
- **Restoration and mission are inseparable.**
  - *"To raise up the tribes of Jacob."* (49:6)
  - *"That my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."* (49:6)
    - The same Servant who gathers God's people carries salvation beyond them.


- **The LORD’s compassion sustains the entire mission.**
  - “Can a woman forget her nursing child?” (49:15)
  - “Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.” (49:16)
    - The outward movement of salvation rests on the Lord’s covenant faithfulness, not on human momentum or strength.

**Comprehension:**

-  Why does the LORD emphasize that He upholds and keeps the Servant (42:1, 6)? What does this reveal about the source of the mission?  



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-  How does the Servant’s gentleness (42:3) challenge expectations of what a savior should look like?  



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-  Why does Isaiah describe restoration of Israel and light for the nations together (49:6)? What does this reveal about God’s purpose?  


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-  How does the LORD’s compassion for His people (49:13–16) support the outward movement of salvation to the world?  


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**Summary:**

Isaiah 42 and 49 reveal that the comfort God speaks becomes salvation carried through His Servant. Chosen and upheld by the LORD, the Servant restores the weak, gathers God’s people, and shines His saving light beyond Israel to the nations. **This is Missionary Grace: not a change in God’s heart but its outward movement.** The same mercy that comforts God’s people becomes the light by which the world will see His salvation.

**4. FULFILLMENT — Christ Connection**

*Jesus, the Servant Who Restores the Weak and Carries God’s Light to the Nations*








Isaiah 42 and 49 reveal a Servant sent by the LORD—gentle with the weak, faithful in the work, and appointed as light for the nations. He does not advance by spectacle or force. He restores quietly, persists steadily, and carries God’s saving purpose outward. The New Testament identifies this Servant as Jesus. In Him, God’s saving work does not merely get announced; it takes on flesh and moves into the world. Christ embodies the covenant, restores the broken, and brings God’s light beyond Israel to the ends of the earth.

Where Isaiah shows the Servant upheld by the LORD and sent to bring justice and light, the Gospels show Jesus moving in that same pattern—healing without display, teaching without spectacle, and remaining faithful even when the work seems slow or resisted. The Servant’s mission reaches its fullest expression in Christ’s cross and resurrection, where apparent weakness becomes the means by which God’s salvation reaches the world.

**Read NT passages:**

- **Matthew 12:15–21** — Matthew identifies Jesus directly with Isaiah 42’s Servant
- **Luke 4:16–21** — Jesus announces Himself as the Spirit-anointed One sent to restore
- **John 8:12; 12:44–46** — Christ as the light who comes into the world
- **Acts 13:46–49** — The Servant’s light extended to the nations through the apostolic mission
- **Philippians 2:5–11** — Humble obedience leading to global confession of Christ

**Discussion:**

-  Isaiah presents the Servant as upheld by the LORD and sent with the Spirit (42:1). How does Jesus’ baptism and ministry reveal that same pattern of being sent and upheld by the Father?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-  The Servant does not crush the weak or advance by force (42:2–3). Where do you see that same quiet persistence in Jesus’ ministry and cross?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-  Isaiah says the Servant may appear to labor “in vain” (49:4). How does the cross itself reflect that tension between visible failure and God’s saving purpose?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-  The Servant is called both covenant for the people and light for the nations (42:6; 49:6). How does Jesus’ ministry to Israel lead naturally into the mission to the Gentiles in Acts?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-  If Christ fulfills the Servant’s mission through patience, suffering, and endurance, what does that suggest about how God’s saving work still moves forward in the world?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-  What would be lost if we expected God’s mission to advance only through visible strength or rapid success?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-  **Sacramental Fulfillment...** The Servant brings God’s light into the world not by spectacle but by faithful presence and spoken promise. In Christ, that same light continues to reach people through concrete means. The Servant who restores and gathers still does so personally and presently... How?
  - ✓ **Word (Matthew 28:19–20; Romans 10:17):** \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ **Baptism (Isaiah 42:6; Galatians 3:26–27):** \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ **Absolution (John 20:22–23):** \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ **Supper (Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 10:16):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. APPLICATION & PRAYER — Life & Devotion

### *Living in the Servant's Light*

#### **Purpose**

Isaiah 42 and 49 reveal that God's grace never stops where it first lands.

The Servant restores God's people and is given as light for the nations.

This project asks: **If we live inside the Servant's light, how does that change how we see the world around us?**

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#### **Step 1 — Seeing the Direction of Grace**

##### **Read aloud together:**

- Isaiah 42:6
- Isaiah 49:6

Write the two phrases Isaiah uses to describe the Servant:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss briefly:

1. Who is restored in these verses?
2. Who is reached?
3. Does God's saving work stop with His people?

##### **Complete together:**

God gathers His people so that \_\_\_\_\_.

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#### **Step 2 — Reframing How We See the World**

Isaiah does not describe a program. He describes a people who live inside a light that is moving outward.

In your group, list three places where you regularly spend time:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Now ask:

In which of these places am I usually thinking **inward** rather than recognizing that Christ's light is present there through me? Write one observation:

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### Step 3 — The Servant’s Way vs. Our Expectations

**Read aloud:** Isaiah 42:1–4

The Servant works quietly. He restores gently. He persists without spectacle.

Discuss:

- What kind of results do we normally expect if God is “at work”?
- Why might the Servant’s quiet persistence feel slow or unimpressive?
- Where do we tend to look for visible success instead of trusting steady faithfulness?

**Complete together:**

Isaiah teaches that God’s mission often looks like \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

### Step 4 — When the Work Feels Small

**Read aloud:** Isaiah 49:4–6

The Servant speaks of laboring “in vain,” yet the mission expands.

Discuss:

- Why does Isaiah allow the Servant to speak this way?
- What does this reveal about how God measures faithfulness?
- How might this change the way Christians think about witness and outreach?

**Write one sentence:**

Faithful participation in God’s mission means \_\_\_\_\_ even when \_\_\_\_\_.

### Step 5 — Naming One Place Where Light Can Move

Return to the places you listed earlier. Choose **one place** where Christ has already placed you. Not a new program. Not a grand plan. Just a real setting where you live.

Write:

Where might the Servant’s light move through me this week?

\_\_\_\_\_

What would faithfulness look like there?

\_\_\_\_\_

This is not about producing results.

It is about living as someone already gathered into God’s light.

### Class Synthesis

As a class, complete this sentence: **Because the Servant is light for the nations, we live as people who**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 6. MUSIC THAT ECHOES ISAIAH'S VISION

*"I will give you as a light for the nations."* — Isaiah 42:6; 49:6

Isaiah 42 and 49 do not describe a burst of visible triumph. They describe a Servant who works quietly, restores gently, and carries God's salvation outward. The music below follows that same movement: **quiet sending → steady faithfulness → widening light → global praise.**

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### ♪ *O Jesu Christe, wahres Licht* — Johann Sebastian Bach (BWV 118/Chorale setting)

#### Light carried outward.

This hymn-prayer asks Christ to shine His light into the darkness of the world and send His gospel to every people. It echoes Isaiah's language directly: the Servant given as light beyond one place or nation. The melody moves calmly and steadily, reflecting mission that advances without spectacle.

*"O Jesus Christ, true light,  
enlighten those who sit in night."*

**Listen for:** how the music moves outward without urgency or force.



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### ♪ *Go Forth into the World in Peace* — John Rutter

#### Sent, not scattered.

This benediction-shaped anthem reflects the Servant's sending. It does not stir excitement so much as steady resolve. The tone is gentle, almost quiet, reinforcing that God's people are sent into the world as carriers of peace rather than conquerors of space.

*"Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage."*

**Listen for:** how mission sounds like steady walking rather than marching.



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### ♪ *Christ, Be Our Light* — Bernadette Farrell

#### Light given to be shared.

This modern hymn draws directly on Isaiah's imagery of light for the nations. The refrain widens the vision from personal comfort to communal sending. It captures the idea that the light we receive is meant to move outward.

*"Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness."*

**Listen for:** how the refrain expands from individual prayer to shared calling.



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### ♪ *Let All the World in Every Corner Sing* — Ralph Vaughan Williams

#### The widening horizon of praise.

This setting captures the global scope of Isaiah's vision. The text celebrates the gospel sounding "in every corner," echoing the Servant's light reaching to the ends of the earth. Yet the music builds gradually, not explosively, reinforcing the idea of a mission that spreads steadily.

*"Let all the world in every corner sing:  
my God and King."*

**Listen for:** how expansion feels inevitable rather than dramatic.



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#### Reflection Prompt

As you listen, notice how the Servant's work moves outward quietly but persistently.

Complete the sentence in one or two lines: **"This music helped me hear Isaiah 42–49 as**

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## CLOSING PRAYER (Collect Style)

We've been learning the structure of a traditional collect:

1. **Address** — to whom we pray
2. **Basis / Relative Clause** — who God is or what He has promised
3. **Petition** — what we ask
4. **Purpose / Result** — why we ask it
5. **Conclusion** — through Christ our Lord, etc.

Below are examples from this lesson. At the end, craft your own based on **Missionary Grace**.

### **Light for the Nations (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6)**

Merciful Father, who appointed Your Servant as a covenant for Your people and a light for the nations, open our eyes to the grace You have given us and send us to carry that light into the world, so that those who sit in darkness may see Your salvation and give You praise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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### **Quiet Faithfulness (Isaiah 42:1–4)**

Almighty God, who upheld Your Servant by Your Spirit and promised that he would not grow faint or be discouraged, grant us patience to trust Your quiet work and courage to remain faithful where You have placed us, so that Your justice and mercy may be known among all people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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### **Grace That Moves Outward (Isaiah 49:6)**

Lord God, heavenly Father, who declared that restoring Your people alone was too small a thing and appointed Your Servant as light to the ends of the earth, keep us from turning inward when Your grace is meant to move outward, so that the gospel may be spoken through us to those near and far; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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### **When the Work Feels Small (Isaiah 49:4–5)**

O Lord, who formed Your Servant from the womb and sustained him even when his labor seemed in vain, strengthen us when faithfulness feels hidden and results seem small, so that we may trust Your purpose and continue in the work You have given; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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### **Gathered and Sent (Isaiah 42:6; 49:5–6)**

Gracious God, who have gathered us into the light of Your Son and called him to be a light for the nations, send us in that same light into the places where we live and serve, so that Your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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### **Collect for Tender Grace**

\_\_\_\_\_ ,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.