



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Transfiguration Sunday*

*February 11, 2024*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

The Sunday school children lead us in worship today. We'll read the traditional Bible texts for Transfiguration Sunday. Then we'll hear a conversation between God and Peter. Then a story about time and wonder. Hear old stories afresh with the voices of the youngest among us.

*Welcome to worship today!*

If you are a visitor we invite you to sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

† GATHERING †

*Prelude and Announcements*

*Confession and Forgiveness*

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

L: God, our rock and refuge,

**C: we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another**

**and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

L: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

**C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn What Is This Place  
(For music see Hymn 524 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **What is this place where we are meeting?  
Only a house, the earth its floor.  
Walls and a roof sheltering people,  
windows for light, an open door.  
Yet it becomes a body that lives  
when we are gathered here,  
and know our God is near.**
  
2. **Words from afar, stars that are falling,  
sparks that are sown in us like seed:  
names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders  
sent from the past are all we need.  
We in this place remember and speak  
again what we have heard:  
God's free redeeming word.**
  
3. **And we accept bread at this table,  
broken and shared, a living sign.  
Here in this world, dying and living,  
we are each other's bread and wine.  
This is the place where we can receive  
what we need to increase:  
our justice and God's peace.**

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933. Music: A Vaerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; arr. Adraaisn Engels, b. 1906. Text and arrangement copyright 1984 TEAM Publications, admin. OCP Publications

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading 2 Kings 2:1-12

B: Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." <sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." <sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying

out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

*After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 50:1-6 (*read responsively*)

D: The Lord, greater than all gods,  
summons the earth from east to west,

**C: makes light shine from Zion,  
beauty beyond compare.**

D: The Lord will not be silent  
but comes in fire and storm

**C: to summon earth and heaven  
as witness to our trial:**

D: “Gather the faithful  
who seal my covenant with sacrifice.”

**C: The heavens will testify  
that God, our judge, is just.**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

E: [Paul writes:] And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 9:35)

**C: Alleluia. This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him! Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Mark 9:2-9

*The gospel is announced:*

F: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured

before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

*After the reading:*

F: The gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

*Creative Dialog* *God and Peter*

*Hymn* *How Good, Lord, to Be Here!*

*(For music see Hymn 315 in the Red Hymnal)*

1. **How good, Lord, to be here!**  
**Your glory fills the night;**  
**your face and garments, like the sun,**  
**shine with unborrowed light.**
2. **How good, Lord, to be here,**  
**your beauty to behold**  
**where Moses and Elijah stand,**  
**your messengers of old.**
3. **Fulfiller of the past**  
**and hope of things to be,**  
**we hail your body glorified**  
**and our redemption see.**
4. **Before we taste of death,**  
**we see your kingdom come;**  
**we long to hold the vision bright**  
**and make this hill our home.**
5. **How good, Lord, to be here!**  
**Yet we may not remain;**  
**but since you bid us leave the mount,**

## come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt. Music: W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

Story “Telling Time” from *The Manger is Empty* by Walt Wangerin Jr.

Hymn Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
(For music, turn to Hymn 836 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav’n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

©Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933; Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

## Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace.*

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

*For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,**

**open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,**

**where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard, break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.**

**Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

† PRAYER †

Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: Liberating God,

**C: you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

Prayers of the People



Lord's Prayer

L: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

† SENDING †

Blessing

L: God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
bless you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn This Little Light of Mine  
(For music see Hymn 677 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 2. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

3. **Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual

*Dismissal*

**L:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** **God's work. Our hands.**



**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Sunday School Children
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	Burdie Gillern and Nancy Shuler
Coffee Hour	Cupcakes

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 18**

Greeters and Ushers	Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Linn Griffio
Communion Assistants	Sally Mansfield
Counters	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour	

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**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564  
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192  
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
William Shi, Pianist