



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 14, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

In Mark's account of Jesus' baptism only Jesus sees the descent of the dove and hears the voice from heaven saying, "You are my Son, the beloved." Now at the transfiguration the voice from heaven says the same thing, and it is also heard by Peter, James, and John. The truth of Jesus' full identity is spreading; albeit slowly and imperfectly. May we also know Jesus as God's Son and embrace what that means for our lives.

Welcome to worship today!

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy God,

C: you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

We turn inward, failing to follow your love outward.

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;**

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice

and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Arise, Your Light Has Come
For music turn to Hymn 314 in the Red Hymnal

1. Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.
2. Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
3. Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
4. Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947. Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893. Text copyright 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: 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)

P: In the beginning was the Word,

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

P: In the Word was life,

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

P: 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 Corinthians 4:1-6

B: [Paul writes] Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In 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. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For 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.

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

**C: The Lord, greater than all gods,
summons the earth from east to west,
makes light shine from Zion,
beauty beyond compare.
The Lord will not be silent
but comes in fire and storm
to summon earth and heaven
as witness to our trial:
"Gather the faithful
who seal my covenant with sacrifice."
The heavens will testify
that God, our judge, is just.**

Gospel Acclamation (Mark 9:7)

C: Alleluia. This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him! Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Mark 8:27-9:13

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 8th and 9th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And [Jesus] said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

²Six 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, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then 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.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As 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. ¹⁰So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. ¹¹Then they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” ¹²He said to them, “Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day 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.

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

E: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

E: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

† PRAYER †

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

A: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. Continue to create and to sustain. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: We remember before you all who have died in the faith, especially the missionaries Cyril and Methodius and the reformer Martin Luther. Be with us in our every darkness, until at our end we join with the saints in your everlasting light. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: Beautiful Savior, we pray for all who suffer from COVID-19, for medical workers, and for all who await the vaccine. We pray for those enduring famine, for those experiencing homelessness, for the people of Yemen, and for all who live in war zones. We pray for all who are ill, and especially for all who receive no medical care. Heal them with your loving might. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

A: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.

Special Music

Lord's Prayer

P: 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

P: God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter keep in you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Alleluia, Song of Gladness
(For music see Hymn 318 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever dear to choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.**
- 2. Alleluia you are sounding,
true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother,
bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon's sad waters
mourning exiles still are we.**

3. **Alleluia cannot always
be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions
make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming
when our tears for sin shall flow.**

4. **In our hymns we pray with longing:
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter
with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing
alleluia joyfully.**

Text: Latin hymn, 11th century; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**

Announcements

Office Hours

Pastor Jon anticipates being in the office:

Monday – morning and afternoon

Tuesday –afternoon

Wednesday –afternoon

Thursday - morning

He can be available other times by appointment. Please call the church: (585) 924-5192 or pastor's cell: (585) 281-3595

Church Playground – Girl Scout Gold Project Can & Bottle Collection

Kelsey Sackett is working to replace the church playground for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Please consider donating your deposit bottles and cans to help pay for it. A collection bin is in the old entrance room.

Offering Envelopes

2021 offering envelopes are available on a table in the gathering area. You can stop by church and pick yours up. If you need access to the building and don't remember the code for the key please ask Pastor Jon.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday is February 17. We will be having worship by Zoom at 7:00pm. You are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference pastors are putting together an online worship series called Created for Community. The worship service itself at 7:00pm and goes until about 7:30. After that the worshippers will be split into two groups. One group will have time for questions and discussion with the worship leaders. The other group will explore a different prayer technique or discipline. The services will use the Zoom platform and our own Jim Spawton will be managing it. You will receive the Zoom link in your email during the weeks of Lent.



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St. John's Lutheran Church

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