



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 19, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany time and the time of Lent-Easter. On the mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter.

-Sundays and Seasons 2023

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us 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

Gathering Hymn He Is Exalted

(For music turn to Hymn 14 in the Songbook binder)

1. **He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted
And I will praise His name!**

Chorus

**He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!**

2. **He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted
And I will praise His name!**

Chorus 2 times

Text and music by Twila Paris. CCLI #17827. Copyright 1985 Straightway Music, administered by EMI Christian Music Publishing

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

**C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us,

**that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

P: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Now the Feast and Celebration
(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

Refrain

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom
praise and glory forevermore!**

- 1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*
- 2. Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*
- 3. For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Marty Haugen; Copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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 Exodus 24:12-18

B: ¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 2 (*read responsively*)

D: Why this strife among nations?

Why this pointless scheming?

**C: Kings stand against God,
nobles plot together
against the Lord’s anointed:**

D: “Let us break these fetters,
let us cast off these chains!”

**C: High above the earth
God laughs in mockery,**

D: speaking in anger,
striking them with terror:

**C: “On Zion, my holy mountain,
I anoint my king.”**

D: I repeat the Lord’s decree:

“You are my son,
today I give you birth.

**C: Ask and the nations are yours,
even the far-off lands.**

D: You will strike them with an iron rod,
shatter them like clay pots.”

**C: Kings, come to your senses;
rulers, take heed.**

D: Serve the Lord with joy,
tremble in awe,
bow at God's feet,

**C: for if you provoke God's anger,
you will perish in a flash.
How much better
to find shelter in God!**

Second Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21

E: ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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 Matthew 16:13-17:13

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th and 17th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my

Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.” ¹⁰And the disciples asked him, “Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” ¹¹He replied, “Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; ¹²but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at

their hands.”¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Shine, Jesus, Shine

For music turn to Hymn 671 in the Red Hymnal

Refrain

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me,
shine on me:**

Refrain

**2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me,
shine on me:**

Refrain

Text and Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950, copyright 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

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.

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. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond: **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

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord

For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: 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.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3 - spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

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.**

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice, it is pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

66 *Come Unto Me (Songbook Binder)*

80 *Given and Shed (Songbook Binder)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Be Thou My Vision

(For music turn to Hymn 793 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
2. **Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**
3. **Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
4. **Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text and Music: Irish Folk Tune 8th-10th century; tr. Mary Burne; vers. Eleanor Hull

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant Mary Zuege
Counters Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 26

Greeters and Ushers Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte Creed White
Counters Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
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