



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The First Sunday of Lent*

*March 10, 2019*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

Our gospel reading for today usually goes with Transfiguration Sunday, which was last week. However, we've moved it to the first week in Lent. The Transfiguration of Jesus marks a shift in his ministry. He now changes course from traveling throughout towns and villages to journeying toward Jerusalem. In the weeks to come we will read several of the texts that record that journey. Jerusalem, and the fate that awaits Jesus, will loom ever larger with each coming week.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Dialog (Excerpts from the prayer “Pry Me Off Dead Center” in Guerillas of Grace by Ted Loder, copyright 1981 Augsburg Fortress)

P: O persistent God,  
deliver us from assuming your mercy is gentle.  
Pressure us that we may grow more human,  
not through the lessening of our struggles,  
but through an expansion of them  
that will undamn us and unbury our gifts.

**C: Deliver us from just going through the motions  
and wasting everything we have  
which is today,  
a chance,  
a choice,  
our creativity,  
your call.**

P: O persistent God,  
let how much it all matters pry us off dead center  
so that if we are moved  
to tears  
or sighs  
or screams  
or smiles,  
or dreams  
they will be real

**C: and we will be in touch with who we are  
and who you are  
and who our sisters and brothers are.  
Amen**

Gathering Hymn Open the Eyes of My Heart  
(For music turn to Hymn 26 in the Songbook binder)

*Chorus, Verse and Bridge are repeated however the musicians feel moved to play*

*Chorus* **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see You,  
I want to see You.  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see You,  
I want to see You.**

*Verse* **To see you high and lifted up,  
shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out your pow’r and love  
as we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”**

*Bridge* **Holy, holy, holy.  
Holy, holy, holy.  
Holy, holy, holy.  
I want to see You.**

Text and music: Paul Baloche; copyright 1997 Intergrity’s Hosanna! Music

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Exodus 34:29-35

<sup>29</sup>Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face

was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup>but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 99 (*M: Men, W: Women*)

M: The Lord reigns from the cherubim throne,  
nations tremble, earth shakes!

**W: The Lord of Zion is great,  
high above all peoples.**

M: Praise the great and fearful name,  
“Holy is the Lord!”

**W: Almighty ruler, you love justice,  
you strengthen the upright  
and secure equity for Jacob.**

M: Bow down to worship at God’s feet,  
lift your voice in praise,  
“Holy is the Lord!”

**W: First among priests of the Lord  
were Moses, Aaron, and Samuel;  
they called out God’s Name.**

M: The Lord heard them  
and spoke from a pillar of cloud;  
they honored each command.

**W: Our God did what was needed,  
it was yours, Lord, to punish,  
yours to forgive sins**

M: Bow down to worship the Lord,  
give praise in God’s holy place,  
“Holy is the Lord our God!”

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

<sup>12</sup>Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <sup>16</sup>but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We 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.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (2 Corinthians 4:1)

**C: Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.**

Gospel Reading Luke 9:28-45

*The gospel is announced:*

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

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

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is

my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”<sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

<sup>37</sup>On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” <sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” <sup>42</sup>While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

<sup>43</sup>And all were astounded at the greatness of God. While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup>“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.” <sup>45</sup>But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day      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 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century; tr. Mary Burne; vers. Eleanor Hull

*Apostles' Creed*

A: 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.**

*Peace*

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

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

# † THANKSGIVING †

## Offering

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward the congregation sings:

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.

## Thanksgiving Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

**C: in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**



Lord's Prayer

A: 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: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn I Want Jesus to Walk With Me  
(For music turn to Hymn 325 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.**

3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, Verolga Nix; copyright 1981 Abingdon Press

*Dismissal*

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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



“Something tells me the party’s over.”

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Dick and Phyllis Henderson
Acolyte	Tierney White
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	Julie and Nic Stuart

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 17, 2018**

Greeters and Ushers	John and Gay Card
Acolyte	Morgan Sackett
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Adele Garvey and Linda Flood
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Tom Kurilovitch and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour	The Shulers

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