

A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Transfiguration SUNDAY

February 14, 2021

- **Prelude** **“The Savior Is Waiting; For God So Loved the World;
Change My Heart, O God”** **Roxanne Groff**

- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**

- **Welcome** **Pr Mel**

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of light,

C: You light a fire within us and ask us to shine, but we are quick to hide and make excuses. We shrink from challenges, avoid responsibility, and deny the goodness of your creation. We seek hollow praise and then don't believe it. Forgive us for hiding our God-given light and remaining self-absorbed.

P: Children of God, never fear, for you have always lived in the mercy of your creator. Hear the words of absolution and believe them: you are forgiven, you are made whole, you are restored to God. Hallelujah!

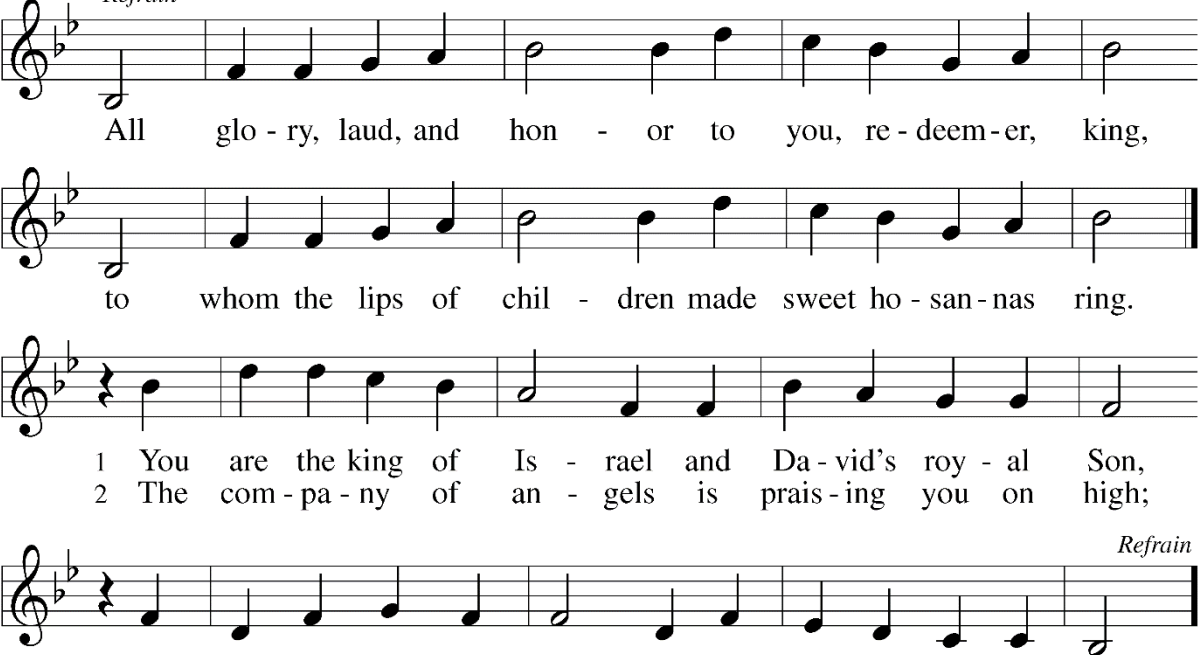
C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

LBW 108

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.
1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing you on high;
Refrain
now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.

* **GREETING**

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.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Wondrous God, You turned fishermen into disciples, teachers, and healers.

Transform us in the ways which serve you best, and lead us fearlessly forward in faith.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 9:28-45

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from Luke, Chapter 9.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the

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appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now 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. ³³Just 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. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶When 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.

³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly 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. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴²While 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.

⁴³And all were astounded at the greatness of God. While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.” ⁴⁵But 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ (*Spoken*)

• **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God Our Father and from the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

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Have you ever taken a long drive across country? It's fun for a couple of hours, but pretty soon the monotony of the road kicks in and you just wish you were at your destination already... About that time, I start watching for signs and billboards. They help me stay focused and give me a foretaste of what's coming ahead. I'll never forget our family drive across country when we moved from San Antonio Texas to Anchorage Alaska. Along the way, we kept seeing these signs



for Wall Drug Store (SLIDE) and they seemed pretty proud of the fact that they offered free ice. Then there was the trip heading south along the east



coast. The famous signs for Pedro's South of the Border (SLIDE) kept our interest going. On the surface this story of the Transfiguration of Jesus is sort of like one of those billboards that reveal what's ahead. Peter, James, John,



and all of us are given this billboard sign (SLIDE) showing us exactly who this Jesus is and revealing what's ahead. From the time Jesus came down

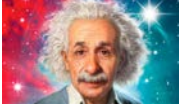
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from that mountain top experience, he knew exactly where he was headed and what lay ahead. Luke tells us Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem.


I said on the surface this story was like a billboard, pointing Jesus and all of his followers ever since then toward Jerusalem and the event that took place there, but when you take a closer look at the events on that mountain top it reveals so much more about Jesus and where He fits into God's plan for creation. At this point in the journey of His ministry, Jesus has already chosen his disciples, even his inner circle, and they have already gone out, into the towns healing the sick and preaching the Good News that God's Kingdom has come near. Then, about 8 days before this transfiguration experience Jesus revealed to them this plan to go to Jerusalem where he would be betrayed, beaten, crucified and on the third day he would be raised from the dead. Peter rebuked Jesus and said God forbid such a thing to which Jesus replied, "Get behind me Satan!" As we pick up the story today, it's been 8 days of awkward silence. Luke records no other stories, no dialog, no healing, no preaching or teaching... I believe that's why Peter was taken up that mountain to witness this Theophany. I admit, I have no idea why James and John were also taken up the mountain, perhaps they sided with Peter in rejecting any thoughts of Jesus being crucified... No matter why they were there,



it seems pretty clear what God wanted Peter, James, and John to know and through them also for us to understand, well, something...

Through their sleepy eyes, Peter, James, and John see Jesus glowing white, as bright as a flash of lightening. Jesus isn't alone, he's talking with Moses and Elijah. Now at this point I have to stop and ask what about these two figures from the Old Testament would be so significant as to be brought down to earth from heaven... Some ordinary people become so famous they actually become larger than life. Their images become the face of the thing they represent. Here's what I

mean. Take Albert Einstein for example  (SLIDE). When you see his face you immediately think of science, genius, mathematics, and maybe even the poster boy for what it looks like to have a bad hair day. Or take LeBron James as

another example  (SLIDE). He's arguably, the face of the NBA. It's

the same with Moses and Elijah. Moses is the face of the Law 

 (SLIDE) and Elijah the face of the Prophets  (SLIDE). These two, larger than life figures are conspiring with Jesus regarding the plan for Jesus'

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“departure.” Transfiguration (SLIDE) The word translated as departure in the Greek is the word exodus. I don't think it was by accident Luke used that specific word. He wants us to remember how Moses led the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness, into the freedom of the promised land. At the same time the iconic figure of Elijah is meant to remind us of the many times the prophets were sent by God, not to reveal the future, but to be the mouthpiece of God, calling God's people to repent from worshipping false gods like Baal.

So, picture the scene... There's the two biggest icons of the Jewish faith, Moses, representing the Law of God and Elijah, representing God's continuing voice in the world having a high level meeting with Jesus, the Messiah of God, who is about to become the face of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. All three are reviewing and discussing the plan to begin the trip to Jerusalem where Jesus will lead all of God's people from our bondage to sin and death into the freedom of living in the Kingdom of God.

Another thing I learned from this Transfiguration Story is that even when you don't like what Jesus is saying or where he is heading, God, the Almighty Creator of the Universe, wants us to listen to Him. This isn't your mom or Dad, or

a schoolteacher, or even your Pastor telling you to listen to Jesus, this is none other than the Big Guy Himself. It can't come from any higher source. This order comes all the way from the top! Peter, and perhaps James and John didn't like the choices and decisions Jesus was about to make and Peter said so directly to Jesus. Here God doesn't use an intermediary to speak, but comes down in the form of a cloud and tells us plainly and directly, "This is my Son. Listen to Him!"

So, what exactly are we supposed to listen to? What did Jesus say and do while he was alive that was so earth shattering? I can't tell you everything in this short sermon, but you all have Bibles. Some of them even make it easy to figure out what Jesus said by printing all the words of Jesus in red ink. Here's a short synopsis... Jesus came to inaugurate the Kingdom of God here on earth. His life and in his ministry taught and showed us what that means. In God's Kingdom being angry and calling someone a fool is equivalent to murder. In God's Kingdom people take care of people. There will be no more rich people stepping over the wretched poor Lazarus on their door stoops. In the Kingdom of God, evil is repaid with good and weapons of war are turned into garden tools. It's pretty simple stuff, but oh, so, hard to do!

I sometimes wonder if Christians even still long for the Kingdom of God to reign in the here and now? I mean, we love to claim America is a Christian nation,

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but we're the first ones to want to retaliate when an enemy strikes us or our "National Interests." Aren't Christians supposed to turn the other cheek? I know national security is complicated and we do have the right to defend ourselves, this just shows us how huge and terrifying the real enemy really is. We don't want to die... I'm sure Jesus didn't want to die either. I'll bet Peter didn't wish for his own upside-down crucifixion, nor James to be beheaded, nor John to spend his last days exiled to a small island called Patmos. Yet, Jesus called them and us to pick up our own Cross and follow Him.

This Transfiguration story was thought to be so important and profound to the early Church they included it in 3 of the 4 Gospels. It's meant for us and for all people who ever heard or read this story over the millennia as both a sign, pointing to the Glory of God, as revealed in Jesus Christ who is God's Son. It's also meant to be an encouragement to those who do take up their Cross and follow Jesus. Yes, indeed this is God's plan and Jesus is the one we are to listen to and the one we are to follow. For some sceptics we need to hear that message from God himself. For all of us who need to know that when following Jesus hurts and might even get us killed we're doing the right thing. This story encourages us to follow Jesus back down that mountain where all of life's dirtiness lives and thrives. Down into the valleys where disease, sin, and death still rule the day. We go back, like Jesus

changed and transfigured. Maybe we're not glow in the dark disciples, but when we follow the Lord Jesus Christ, we are transformed into what Luther called "little Christs" for our neighbors. We go back to our lives and ministries encouraged and reminded to keep on trying our best to walk in the Kingdom of God as Jesus did. Maybe we need the reminder that Jesus disciples needed that Jesus is the Way and the Truth, and the Life. Only with Jesus can we hope to see God's Kingdom come here as it is in heaven.

May your life have many highs that help you get through the lows. May we all pay more attention to the signposts and billboards God places in our lives to help remind us the Kingdom of God comes to earth in the way we live our lives. May you gladly take up your Cross and as we enter the Season of Lent this week follow Jesus and set our faces to Jerusalem. Most of all, may your life reflect all Glory and Honor to our Father, to Our Savior, and to the Holy Spirit who calls, gathers, and equips us for our journey. Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

• **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Katherine Jump

* **NICENE CREED**

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

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We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need...

A brief silence.

L: How often your people lose sight of your truth, O Lord. Forgive our short-sightedness and ignorance when you have clearly shown us how to live as your faithful children. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Your love extends to the heavens; ours is but a pale imitation of what you have shown to us. Bless our efforts to embody your love toward others and toward you. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: The mysteries of this world can sometimes baffle us, Lord. Enfold us with awe at your power and grace, and embolden us to proclaim your gospel to all. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Sometimes we must let go in order to heal fully. Release us from past fixations,

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grievances and regrets, and equip us to take on a new future. Heal those who cry out to you, especially... Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We celebrate the lives of Jody Hessler, Nate and Ivy Cheeseman, along with Saint Paul and all your faithful missionaries and proclaimers of your good news. Inspire us to do likewise and dedicate our lives to serving you. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: Receive our prayers and shed light on our path as we seek to walk in your ways and bring glory to you through your son Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

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

C: And also with you.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is a ceramic flower pot located near the back door of the church.

P: We offer all we have to you, O God: our lives and our possessions, for all that we have you have given us. Receive the gifts we bring and find favor in our efforts to serve you through serving others, for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the "tie that Binds us together", let us pray as Jesus taught...

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

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

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **SENDING BLESSING**

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

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN** **“This Little Light of Mine”** **ELW 677**



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

C: **Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!**

* **POSTLUDE**

“Thank you Lord”

Roxanne Groff

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Chris Cassel
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	Given by Pastor Mel & PJ Musser in honor of Valentine's Day, thanking God for making all of us His Valentines!

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Don't forget your dental check ups

MIND: Organize your clothes closet

SPIRIT: Invite a friend to church



Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 21st
Luke 9:51-62

Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

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Trinity Council Meeting has been moved to Thursday evening, February 18th due to Ash Wednesday Worship Service on Wednesday.

This Week @ Trinity –February 14 thru February 21, 2021

Sun, February 14 10:30 am	Valentines Day Worship Service
Mon, February 15	President's Day
Wed, February 17 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Thurs, February 18 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Finance Team Meeting Trinity Council Meeting
Fri, February 19 3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, February 21 10:30 am	Worship Service



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Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Trinity Contact Info

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