

**St John Center Lutheran Church
East Earl, Pennsylvania**



February 14, 2021
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"Beautiful Savior"* Silesian Melody arr. Lani Smith

C Please respond to the portions of the service in bold print.

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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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.

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.

SCRIPTURE SONG



☒ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won- der- ful are your deeds, O God of the u- ni- verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na- tions.



Who can fail to hon- or you, Lord, and sing the glo- ry of your name?



☒ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☒ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

P Let us pray together. Almighty God, on the mountain you showed your glory in the transfiguration of your Son. Give us the vision to see beyond the turmoil of our world and to behold the king in all his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST LESSON: 2 KINGS 2:1-12

A reading from 2 Kings, the second chapter.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah 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. ³The 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.”

⁴Elijah 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. ⁵The 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.”

⁶Then 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. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then 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.

⁹When 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.” ¹⁰He 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.” ¹¹As 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. ¹²Elisha 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

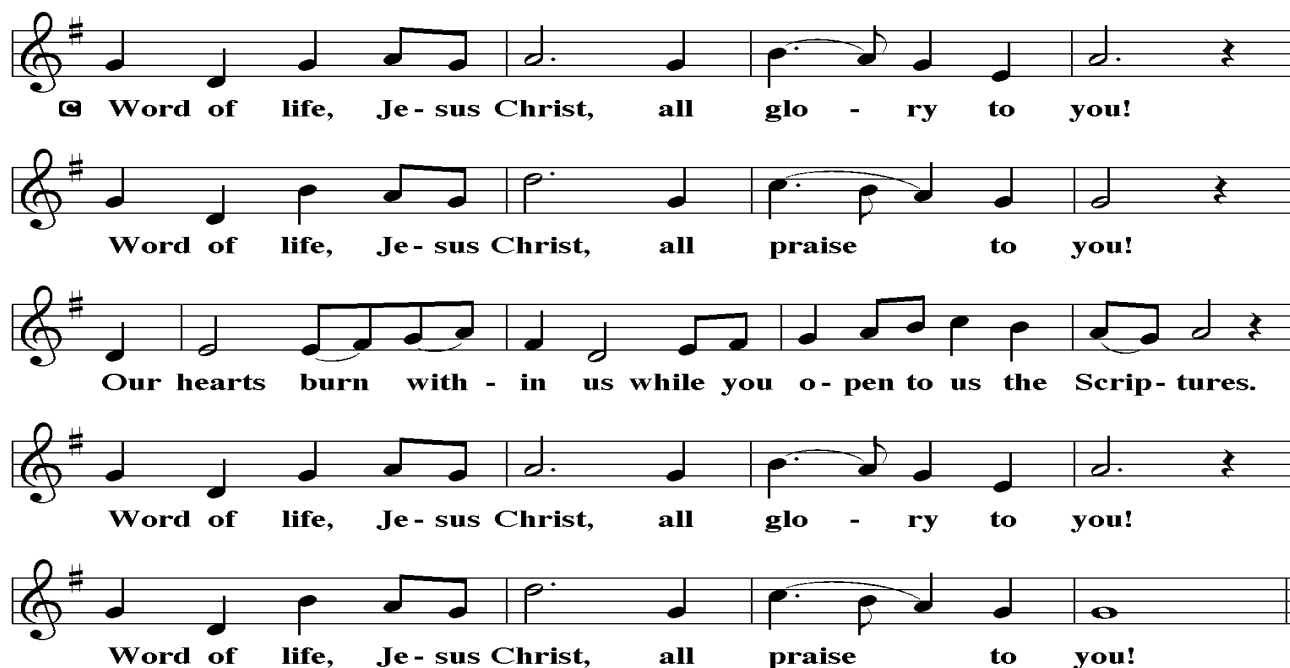
SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

A reading from 2 Corinthians, the fourth chapter.

³Even 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip - tures.

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL: MARK 9:2-9

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the ninth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

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.**

P 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, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C pray in the Holy Spirit.

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**C Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!**

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you
in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness and remission of all our sins. **Amen**

OFFERING MOMENT

P Let us pray our offering prayer, to bless the gifts that we continue to give in response to God's gifts to us.

**Merciful God, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your
great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many
a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer this day, *especially Marie, Carine, Richard, Bob, Cindy, Doris, Randy, Deb, Elmo, Mary Jean, Anna, Mary, Catharine, Bev, Jane, Maudie and those we name before you in our hearts*, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, *especially missionaries Cyril and Methodius*, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**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**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

LBW 518

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs spar - kling stars on spring;
 bright in the of God - kling and on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE “Allegro Vivace from the ‘Water Music’ Suite” G F Handel (1685-1759)

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Thomas E. Darr
Organist: Vickie Kissinger

COMING EVENTS – FEBRUARY

BIBLE STUDY – FEBRUARY 16 – STUDY ON HEBREWS – 2PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL, 7 PM ON ZOOM.

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17 - I WILL SEND OUT THE INVITES FOR ZOOM. WILL BE VIRTUAL - YOU WILL RECEIVE THE BULLETIN AND ASHES THAT YOU CAN APPLY.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24 - ANOTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY - HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WILL BE HELD EACH WEEK OF LENT.

CLUSTER LENTEN SERVICES WILL BEGIN FEBRUARY 24 AND WILL BE VIRTUAL.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For those serving in the military... Conner Allen (Darr's), Christopher Buch (Susie Welsh's grandson), Cody Emrey (Doman's), Trinity Gilkey (Bauer's), Jeremy Reifsnyder (J Reifsnyder), Jon Shorr (Darr's), Richard Witwer (Maudie Witwer's grandson)

For those with ongoing illness... Cindy Petersheim

For the homebound... Mary Martin

For those afflicted with cancer... Sandra Bair (M Nuessle), Ritch Bedell (Bauer's), Doris Bewley, Jeff Donahue (P Wallace), Robert Freeman (Mary Hafer), Sharon Fremont (D Lorah), Isaiah Hoar and family (M J Ludwig), Connie Howe (V Haug), Harold Kring, Nate Mohler (Mary Hafer's son-in-law), Matt Sanger (T Wentzel), T Simmons, Jr. (Simmons'), Robyn Wiley (K Wallace)

For those facing or recovering from a hospitalization... **Steve Mitrani (Bauer's)**

For those in need of strength and comfort.. Richard Burkhart, Steve Cammauf (J Kring), Dan Carpenter (B Wallace), Michael Clause, Sierra Cortez (T Wentzel), Amy DeFalco (J Kring), Bob Dettra, Bernice Dietrich (J Kring), Darlene Ganse (J Kring), Scott Gockley (C Doman), Norma Good, Don Griffith (Raffauf's), Mary Hafer, Tracy Harris (S Good), Randy Haug, Vickie Haug, Allen Kimball (W Kimball), Judy Kring, Deb Lorah, Elmo Lorah, Mary Jean Ludwig, Marie Paul (T Good), Wanda Lutz (T Raffauf), Anna McComsey, Catharine Messner, Israel Newswanger (L Burns), Carolyn Seddon (J Kring), Carine Shorr (Darr's), Bev Simmons, Shaun Sitkowski, Tim Stanley (T Wentzel), Tammy Stiffler (Haug's), Lance Stoudt, Jane Sweigart, Carlos Terres (T Weaver), Tammy Weaver, Darlene Wentzel (T Wentzel), Maudie Witwer, Steve Young (T Weaver)

Underlined indicates names of members of the congregation. **Bold** indicates names added since last week.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE please contact Pastor Darr at 717-320-3642 or Alvin McCoy at 610-286-9647.

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

A Cosmos of Kaleidoscopic Fragments

It was several months since her death, months of looking to make sense of his pained world that had changed so completely. In desperation, he wandered into a room of unknown faces, a circle of uncertainty. Welcome. Names. Introductions. Then instructions from the grief counselor: “Next week, bring an item, something that will let us know your loved one.”

He wondered how that could possibly be done. What one thing, what symbol would be able to define a whole life? What to bring? Her hiking boots or blue sport sandals, the spinning wheel, a gardenia bush or bouquet of zinnias? The gold wedding ring worn for thirty years? Her passport? Perhaps one of her paintings. Maybe her recipe for spaghetti sauce with olives—no, better, her grandmother’s date cookies. The flannel-lined jeans or white linen dress? A picture of her children, her Bible, a book, her diary? He did not return to the circle. He could not imagine any token to be stand-in for a whole life.

There with Jesus on a high mountain apart from the comings and goings below, just hours away from when he would foretell his own suffering and death, three disciples grasped for a full-screen image of their rabbi, Jesus. In one dazzling flash of terrifying brightness they thought they had found it. But then the same voice that presided over Jesus’ baptism interjected: “This is my Son . . .” (Mark 9:7). Suddenly, a cosmos of kaleidoscopic fragments rushed in: there was Jesus restoring sight to blind eyes, defying demonic strongholds, settling seas, passing bread and multiplying fish, rattling an empire, embracing a child, drinking the Samaritan’s water, eating the sinners’ meals, casting mercy about like seed, robing enemies in love, championing the lowly, promising life, accepting death. There is no way that this Jesus could be condensed into a single moment, image, or being.

As if to say, “Don’t be blinded by the light,” from the cloud there came a voice: “*This* is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”