

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

February 11, 2024
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: ...we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

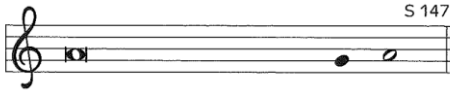
P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: Amen

Greeting

A: 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.**

Kyrie



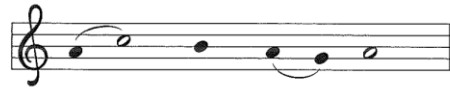
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



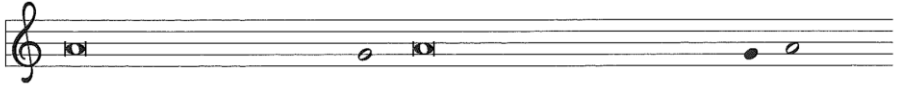
Lord, have mer - cy.



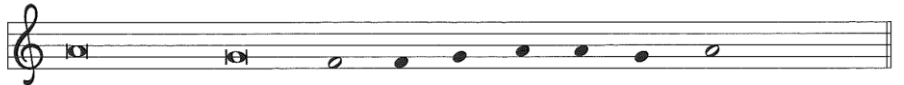
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

S 148

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together... C: **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. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson

2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

1 Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah 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. 3 The 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." 4 Elijah 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. 5 The 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." 6 Then 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. 7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8 Then 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. 9 When 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.” 10 He 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.” 11 As 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. 12 Elisha 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 50:1-6

1 The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken; calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

4 God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.

5 “Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

6 The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause, for it is God who is judge.

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry

3 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In 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. 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. 6 For 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel**Mark 9:2-9**

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

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

2 Six 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, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then 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." 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. 9 As 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon**Pastor Paul Busekist****Hymn of the Day***How Good, Lord, to Be Here**ELW #315***Apostle's Creed**

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: response after each petition: “**Receive our prayer.**”

(Before prayer) A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.... *(Conclusion)*

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering / Offering Song

Zeke Clemons

Offertory

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW #465

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

(continued on next page)

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

Lamb of God

S 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

Beautiful Savior
I Received the Living God

ELW #838
ELW #477

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts

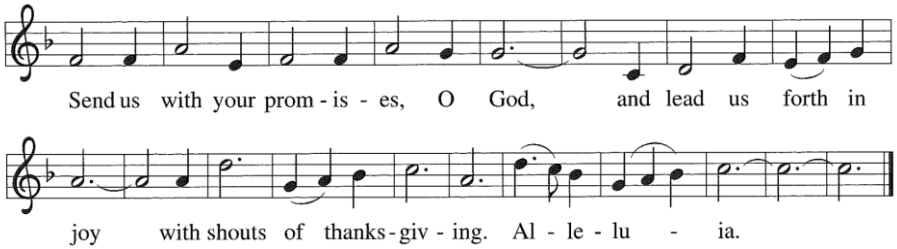


Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

(continued on next page)



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* **ELW #815**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem February 11, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

02/11—Joe White	2/15—Martha Sheehan
02/12—Nathan Goebel	2/17—Rodney Rice
02/14—Kelly Thomson (Bauer)	2/18—Harper Wiemerslage

Join us on February 14th at 7:00pm for our Ash Wednesday service.
It will be Live-Streamed

New member acceptance: We have a couple of new members who will be accepted on Sunday, February 25th. Please come and support them on their special day.



Worship Servants for February 11

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Nancy Ammann

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Judi Block in Honor and Memory of John Sina, my dad.*

Hospitality—Jim/Dorene Boyd

A/V—Paul Ton, The Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Jacque Rossfeld; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth and Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Betty Rutila and Suzanne Lehto

Shrove Tuesday Dinner and Fun: The Fellowship Committee has planned a Breakfast for Dinner meal for Tuesday February 13th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, egg casseroles and fruit. Maple syrup has been generously donated by Still Point Farm, a local family farm in Empire, MI. We will have Paczkies for dessert and beverages. We will be having fun and games with a Mardi Gras theme after dinner. We are asking for volunteers to help with dinner preparation and clean up. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Ski Trip: Join us for an intergeneration Ski Trip to Crystal Mountain on Sunday, February 18th, beginning at 1pm! All ages are invited to hit the slopes, or to watch the fun! In the event that there is not enough snow to go skiing, we plan to go ice skating instead - keep an eye out for updated info as we get closer to the date! We will plan to enjoy the outdoors until about 4:30pm, then meet at Gino's for dinner. Passes will be covered for all BLC youth who participated in fundraisers, and for as many adults as possible. Sign-ups for this event are important, so if you are planning on joining us for an afternoon of fun, please sign up by contacting Alanna at: alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org You can also sign up in the Narthex.

Lenten Meals: Our Lenten Services will be held on Thursday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. There will be 5 weeks of Lenten meals prior to the services, beginning on February 22nd at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Committee is planning on having soup suppers. We are asking for volunteers to make soup. We would like 2 pots of soup each week. So if you would like to make soup there are sign up sheets in the Narthex. The Fellowship Committee will be providing bread, crackers, peanut butter and jelly, desserts and beverages. We are also asking for volunteers to help each week with set up and clean up. So please sign up in the Narthex. We can enjoy food and fellowship before our Lenten Services.

SPECIAL MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY: During the budget meeting it was mentioned that the congregation would like more information on the proposal for solar panels on the fellowship roof, and would like the privilege to vote on taking this step. For these reasons there will be 2 meetings on Sundays in Feb. **The first will be informational today, February 11th.** We will have a chance to hear directly via ZOOM from the leader of the company who has led other congregations in this new venture. Since it will be right after church and on Super Bowl Sunday we will have some tasty hot soups for you to enjoy...nourishment for the tummy and for the mind. And don't worry...you'll be home in plenty of time for the 6:30 kick-off.

Two weeks after that, on **February 25**, we will have a congregational meeting to determine if we will go forward with the panels. We hope as many of you as possible can attend and voice your opinion and vote.

FOR BOTH OF THE MEETINGS THERE IS ONE NEW REQUEST. TO STREAMLINE THE MEETINGS WE WILL SET UP MICROPHONES ON STANDS AND YOU WILL BE ASKED TO COME FORWARD TO THE MIC. (A lot of time is lost while someone is walking a mike between members.) If you have mobility problems that day, please alert the hospitality team so a mike can be brought to you.

The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm, with a study of the Book of Mark. On Wednesday, February 14th, we will discuss the 6th of 8 sections, then take a break to be a part of the Red Letter Challenge which focuses on the 5 weeks of Lent. Pastor Dana Hendershot and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant will be joining us on Zoom. We hope you can join us beginning on February 21st.

Safety and Security: Locking the Doors We have started locking the front door during Worship Services. **The Safety and Security Committee is asking for volunteers to be in the Gathering Space during services. We would like to ask 1 member of each family to volunteer.** There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We lock the door 10 minutes after the service begins and unlock the doors as the service ends. The volunteer is there to let latecomers into the church. The volunteer will not miss the service as there is a way to listen to the service or if you have a smart phone you are able to live stream the service. Also you may leave the Gathering Space to go into the sanctuary for communion or you can choose to have communion at the end of service. (The musicians and people working the audio/visual in the choir loft receive communion right after services.) If you have any questions please talk to a Safety and Security Committee member: Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne or Jan Stretlien. Thank you for assisting in keeping our members safe.

Are you grieving something from a death or something else? It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the **3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the library.** If you have any questions please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.