

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 14, 2021 (Real Church Virtual)



Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Holy God,

C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

Verse 1

How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night; your face and garments, like the sun, shine with un-borrowed light.

Verse 2

How good, Lord to be here, your beauty to behold where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.

Verse 3

Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be, we hail your body glorified and our redemption see.

Verse 4

Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come; we long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.

Verse 5

How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain; but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

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

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.

First Reading: 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.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 50:1-6

¹The 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. R**

³Our 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.**

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.

P: A reading from... **C: 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 anymore, 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Apostles 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 the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

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.

Final Blessing

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

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song – City on a Hill

Verse 1

Blessed are the poor for the Kingdom is yours. Blessed when you mourn; there's comfort in His arms. Blessed are the meek with the world at your feet. Blessed when it's righteousness that you seek.

Pre-Chorus

It's beautiful, beautiful like a city on a hill lighting up the night for the glory of the Lord. Rise and shine.

Chorus

We will shine! Light of the world: we can't hide it, this beautiful light, it shines for all of the world to believe we can be a city on a hill.

Verse 2

Blessed when you're merciful, you find grace. Blessed are the pure, you'll see the face of God. Blessed are you making peace on earth. Blessed when you follow even when it hurts.

Pre-Chorus

It's beautiful, beautiful like a city on a hill lighting up the night for the glory of the Lord. Rise and shine.

Chorus

We will shine! Light of the world: we can't hide it, this beautiful light, it shines for all of the world to believe we can be a city on a hill.

Bridge

For the glory of the Lord, rise and shine. For the glory of the Lord, rise and shine. For the glory of the Lord, rise and shine. For the glory of the Lord, the glory of the Lord.

Chorus

We will shine! Light of the world: we can't hide it, this beautiful light, it shines for all of the world to believe we can be a city on a hill, a city on a hill.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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February 14, 2021

Ash Wednesday Parking Lot Imposition of Ashes will take place on Wednesday, February 17th at two separate times: 11:15am – 12:15pm and 5:15pm – 6:15pm. Parking Lot Communion will take place at the same times.

2021 Giving envelopes are available. Please call the church office to make arrangements to pick up your box. Those boxes not picked up will be mailed.

The FEBRUARY issue of the STAR is ready! Feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

The outdoor **“Shooting STAR Dispenser” at BLC is now full** with several paper publications, including the February STAR and the current week’s worship folder/bulletin. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

Calling all Knitters!!: There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some to make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

Christ in Our Home Devotionals for January/February/March. They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

The BLC book club continues to meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm via ZOOM. On Feb. 23 we will discuss the book “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng. Even if you have not read the book you are welcome to join our discussion. If you are not on the contact list just send your email address to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net so you can receive the ZOOM invite.

Due to the restrictions in place at ski resorts at this time we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Ski Trip for this year. While we are very disappointed, Annie would like to invite the youth and their families to the **all youth sledding party on February 20th at Twin Lakes Park.** She will be sending more information in regards to more details in early February. If you would like to make sure you are on the email list or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org. We promise that we will have an amazing Ski Trip in 2022!

A big thank you to those who have turned in Oleson’s receipts. For 2020, we received a total of \$545.66. Please continue saving your Oleson’s receipts for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at

<http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org or *Sharon* at admin@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

"Zoom Bible Study" gathering via Zoom has completed its study of Paul's Letters to the Corinthians and will take a short break until after Ash Wednesday. The group will continue on Wednesday, February 24th from noon until about 1:15pm. Besides the thought-provoking discussions, we also have great conversation and fellowship. We are using the book *The Great Conversation: Nature and the Care of the Soul* by Belden C. Lane. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

The cold and gray days of mid-winter are here and many of our members have little to no contact with the outside world. Please use your church directory or the addresses below to send a cheery note or make a phone call to someone. Don't have much time and not sure who to contact? How about choosing those whose last name is closest in the alphabet to your own?

**List of Home Bound Members of BLC 2021
BLC = Directory**

Marlene Baesch - BLC

Marinan Bradford - Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI

Carol Collins – Burcham Assisted Living 2700 Burcham Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823

Brenda Denoyer - BLC

Richard Fernholz - BLC

Jo Hasse – BLC (in French Manor)

Corinne Hill - BLC

Christian Stretlien and Julie LaPeer - 14720 Mc Coll Ave. Thompsonville, MI 49683

Tom and Lee Miller - BLC

Nancy Smith - BLC

Lois Stretlien (Jan's sister in-law) - Traverse Manor Room #24

Ellie Tacke - BLC

Inge Thomas - BLC

Priscilla Thomas - Samaritas Assisted Living 4354 Mt. Hope Rd. Williamsburg MI 49690 BLC

Jan and Butch Waisanen - BLC

Dee and Bill Springer - Boardman Lake Glens 1400 Brigadoon Ct. TC 49684 BLC

Marjorie Whitney - Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI BLC