

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

11 FEBRUARY 2024



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 4

The liturgy is in the front of the ELW starting on page 147.

The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

HYMN #838 "BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR"

GREETING [PAGE 147]

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.

♪ **KYRIE** [PAGE 147]

♪ **HYMN OF PRAISE** [PAGE 149] “THIS IS THE FEAST...”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...now and forever.*)

C: Amen

READINGS

2 KINGS 2:1-12 / PSALM 50:1-6 / 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

♪ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** [PAGE 151] “ALLELUIA...”

GOSPEL [MARK 9:2-9]

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

HYMN #315 “HOW GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE!”

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES’ CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for
God's blessing on the church, the world and all of creation.

(Each petition ends: P: God of grace, C: receive our prayer.)

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. *(concluding ...our Savior and Lord.)*

C: Amen.

♪ **GREAT THANKSGIVING** [PAGE 152]

PREFACE [PAGE 153]

P: It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

C: ♪ “Holy, holy, holy...”

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

Holy Communion is celebrated today.

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

COMMUNION [PAGE 154] "LAMB OF GOD..."

HYMN #802 "LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS"

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 HYMN

♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding... Jesus Christ our Lord.*)

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN #597 “MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C: Thanks be to God!

RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Organist: Jason Bousselot or Linda Whitman

Acolyte: David Burke

Lector: Deb Detlefs

Communion Assistant: Brian Bousselot

Usher: Joe Morehead

Cleaners: Marcia Edens

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This Week At A Glance

Tuesday	12:00 pm	'Meet and Eat' at Buck's Corner
Wednesday	10:00 am	Naomi Circle at Wheatland Manor
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship at Faith
Thursday	6:00 pm	Outreach committee at Faith
	6:30 pm	Worship committee at Faith
	7:00 pm	Council meetings at Faith
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship service at Faith
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Our Savior's
	10:30 am	Worship service at Our Savior's

Those to keep in prayer: Diane Christensen, Mallory Boussetot, Diane Sievers; the homebound: Carol Christensen, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Lucy Lee Petersen, Myrna Kay Peterson, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military.

You can help the four youth planning to attend the **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** by becoming a stockholder. Shares cost \$50 each. Investors will receive mail from the youth while at the Gathering and an invitation to a supper when they return. Forms can be found at both churches. Contact Heather Grau (563-424-0507) or Pastor Leah (262-914-9392) if you have questions.

"Meet and Eat" is a new opportunity for fellowship on the second Tuesday of each month. The first lunch is at Buck's Corner. All are invited to come at noon, buy your own lunch of pizza or pasta, and spend time together in conversation.

Ash Wednesday will be February 14th at 7:00pm at Faith Church.

Jars of peanut butter (chunky or smooth, any size, any brand) will be gathered from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday for the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland.

The **noisy offering** will be collected on Sunday, February 18th. The 2024 recipient is Calamus-Wheatland Schools.

March newsletter items are due Monday, February 19th.

Midweek Lenten services begin Wednesday, February 21.
A meal will be served at 6:15 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm.
The February Wednesdays are at Faith and the March Wednesdays
are at Our Savior's.

The Joint Council wants to form a committee to develop an **online parish directory**. Needed are two or three people from each congregation to serve on that committee. You can contact Pastor Leah, Amy Glover, or Mark Witte to volunteer or to get more information.

Our Savior's Congregation Council and Officers

President: Amy Glover

Vice President: Joe Morehead

Secretary: Deb Detlefs

Council members: Jason Boussetot, Neil Holmquist

Treasurer: Jason Boussetot

Financial Secretary: Cindy Burke

Faith Congregation Council and Officers

President: Mark Witte

Vice President: Brian Tulley

Secretary: Terri Boussetot

Council members: Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffman,

Luke Shelton, Ashley Steffens

Treasurer: Doreen Henning

Financial Secretary: Yale Christensen

The Glory of the Mountain Top

Mark 9:2-8 Six days after, Jesus took Peter and James and John along with him and brought them up into a high mountain, all by themselves, alone. And he was transfigured in their presence. His clothes became radiant, exceedingly white, such that no fuller on earth could have made them so white. And Elijah and Moses appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus. "Teacher, it is good for us to be here. So let us make three booths, one for you, and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He said this because he did not know what he was saying, for they were awe-struck. And there came a cloud overshadowing them. And there came a voice from the cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him!" And immediately, when they had looked round, they saw no one any more except Jesus alone with them.

We are face to face with an incident in the life of Jesus that is cloaked in mystery. We can only try to understand. Mark says that this happened six days after the incidents near Caesarea Philippi. Luke says that it happened eight days afterwards. There is no discrepancy here. They both mean what we might express by saying, "About a week afterwards." Both the Eastern and the Western Churches hold their remembrance of the transfiguration on 6th August. It does not matter whether or not that is the actual date, but it is a time we do well to remember.

Tradition says that the transfiguration took place on the top of Mount Tabor. The Eastern Church actually calls the Festival of the Transfiguration the Taborion. It may be that the choice is based on the mention of Mount Tabor in Psalms 89:12, but it is unfortunate. Tabor is in the south of Galilee and Caesarea Philippi is away to the north. Tabor is no more than 1,000 feet high, and, in the time of Jesus, there was a fortress on the top. It is much more likely that this event took place amidst the eternal snows of Mount Hermon which is 9,200 feet high and much nearer Caesarea Philippi and where the solitude would be much more complete.

What happened we cannot tell. We can only bow in reverence as we try to understand. Mark tells us that the garments of Jesus became radiant. The word he uses (stilbein) is the word used for the glistening gleam of burnished brass or gold or of polished steel or of the golden glare of the sunlight. When the incident came to an end a cloud overshadowed them.

In Jewish thought the presence of God is regularly connected with the cloud. It was in the cloud that Moses met God. It was in the cloud that God came to the Tabernacle. It was the cloud which rifled the Temple when it was dedicated after Solomon had built it. And it was the dream of the Jews that when the Messiah came the cloud of God's presence would return to the Temple. (Exodus 16:10, Exodus 19:9, Exodus 33:9, 1 Kings 8:10, 2 Maccabees 2:8.) The descent of the cloud is a way of saying that the Messiah had come, and any Jew would understand it like that.

The transfiguration has a double significance.

(i) It did something very precious for Jesus. Jesus had to take his own decisions. He had taken the decision to go to Jerusalem and that was the decision to face and accept the Cross. Obviously he had to be absolutely sure that was right before he could go on. On the mountain top he received a double approval of his decision.

(a) Moses and Elijah met with him. Now Moses was the supreme law-giver of Israel. To him the nation owed the laws of God. Elijah was the first and the greatest of the prophets. Always men looked back to him as the prophet who brought to men the very voice of God. When these two great figures met with Jesus it meant that the greatest of the law-givers and the greatest of the prophets said to him, "Go on!" It meant that they saw in Jesus the consummation of all that they had dreamed of in the past. It meant that they saw in him all that history had longed for and hoped for and looked forward to. It is as if at that moment Jesus was assured that he was on the right way because all history had been leading up to the Cross.

(b) God spoke with Jesus. As always, Jesus did not consult his own wishes. He went to God and said, “What wilt thou have me to do?” He put all his plans and intentions before God. And God said to him, “You are acting as my own beloved Son should act and must act. Go on!” On the mountain of the transfiguration Jesus was assured that he had not chosen the wrong way. He saw, not only the inevitability, but the essential rightness of the Cross.

(ii) It did something very precious for the disciples.

(a) They had been shattered by Jesus' statement that he was going to Jerusalem to die. That seemed to them the complete negation of all that they understood of the Messiah. They were still bewildered and uncomprehending. Things were happening which not only baffled their minds but were also breaking their hearts. What they saw on the mountain of the transfiguration would give them something to hold on to, even when they could not understand. Cross or no Cross, they had heard God's voice acknowledge Jesus as his Son.

(b) It made them in a special sense witnesses of the glory of Christ. A witness has been defined as a man who first sees and then shows. This time on the mountain had shown them the glory of Christ, and now they had the story of this glory to hide in their hearts and to tell to men, not at the moment, but when the time came.

Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) – Public Domain