



*“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.”*

*~Mark: 9: 2-3*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 15, 2015**

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-04111

[www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)

Phone: 724-625-1830    email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)

Rev. Robert Newpher, Interim Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 15, 2015**

*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 son. 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.*

**PRELUDE:** *Beautiful Savior* – Robert Hobby

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #671: Shine, Jesus, Shine**

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**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 KINGS 2: 1–12** (page 332 in Old Testament)

*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.*

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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."

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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."

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

<sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 50: 1-6**

1. The Lord has spoken, God of gods, And calls the  
 2. Our God will come with rag - ing storm, Con - sum - ing the  
 3. "As - sem - ble all my fol - low - ers Who sealed the

earth from east to west; From Zi - on, per - fect  
 flame and not be still; God calls the heav'n's a -  
 bond with sac - ri - fice"; For God the right - eous

in its grace, God's glo - ry will be man - i - fest.  
 - bove and earth That all may know God's right - eous will.  
 Lord is judge; Let heav'n de - clare God's cause is right.

Text: Psalm 50:1-6; para. Christopher L. Webber  
 Music: William Knapp

WAREHAM

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6** (page 180 in New Testament)

*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 out of darkness at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

<sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
*Repeat alleluia*

This is my Son, my Chosen; lis - ten to him!

**\*GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:2 –9** (page 44 in New Testament)

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

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

<sup>9</sup>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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #316: *Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair***

### **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Blessed are you, Holy One. It is your pleasure to shine the light of your presence on all you love. Enlighten your church and help it listen to and follow your Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. Your creative love shines in every growing thing that stretches toward the sun. Restore your creation to vibrancy and beauty, and open our eyes to see your splendor. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. You reveal true glory in the suffering of your Son. By his example, humble the hearts of leaders and quiet the pride of nations. Teach us the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. You are the strength of the sick and suffering, the lonely and forgotten, the fearful and despairing. Shine the healing light of your presence on them especially Nan, Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. Allow this assembly to expand our vision to see your kingdom present and working among us. Guide our bishop and call committee as they seek a new pastor for this congregation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. You pour your Spirit into young and old alike. Shine your light in the hearts of this congregation, and send us to carry your light to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. Your saints shine with the glory that fills the face of your beloved Son. At the last, gather us with them on your holy mountain. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN #838: *Beautiful Savior***

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

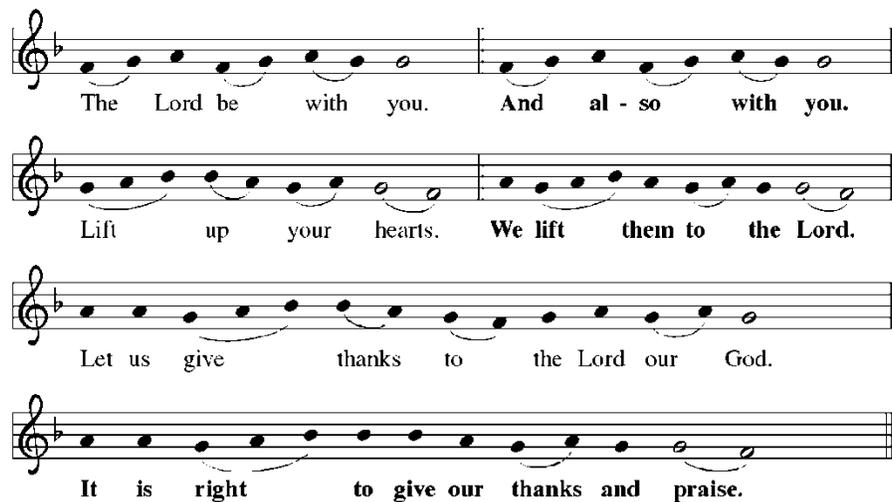
Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation.

Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## \*DIALOGUE

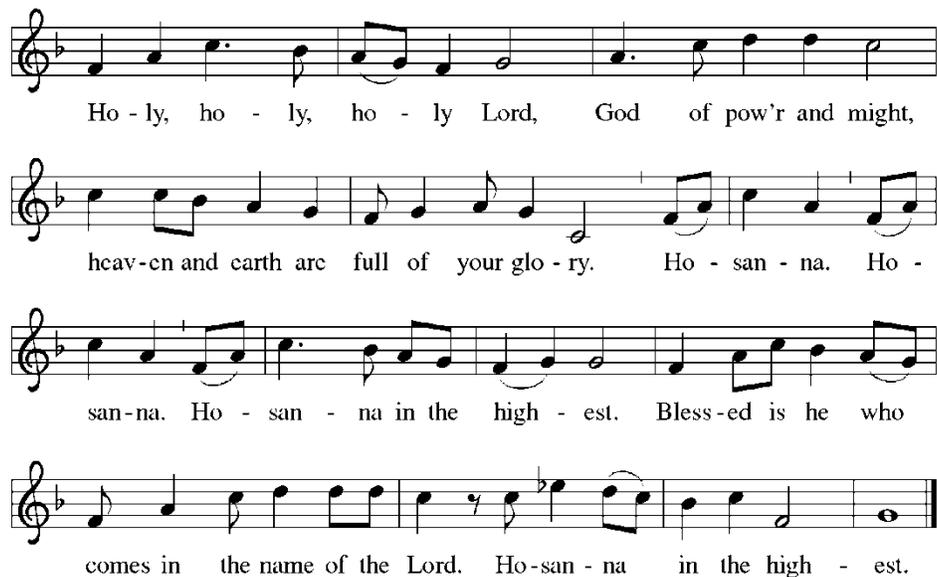


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,  
that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
You have filled all creation with light and life;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel,  
the rescue from Egypt,  
the gift of the promised land,  
the words of the prophets;  
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -  
- migh - ty Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

**\*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

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.*

**COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God***

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have'. The second staff contains: 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The third staff contains: 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the'. The fourth staff contains: 'sin of the world; grant us peace.' The word 'grant' is underlined with a curved line.

**ANTHEM:** *Jesus on the Mountain Peak* (for text, see Hymn 317)

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.  
**Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
God of abundance,  
with this bread of life and cup of salvation  
you have united us with Christ,  
making us one with all your people.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue forever in the risen life  
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #318: Alleluia, Song of Gladness**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair* – Aaron David Miller

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Matt Claus  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** Bob Davidson  
**Attendance Last Week:** 67  
**Weekly Budgeted Need:** \$  
**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 11,021.77  
**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 5,153.85

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Missy Kramer  
**Communion Assistant:** Sally Foster  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** 69  
**Attendance last year:**  
**Last Week's Giving:** \$ 2,955.00  
**Year to Date Receipts:** \$ 14,849.00

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.