



*“<sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!.”*

*~Matthew 17:5*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 23, 2020**

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The Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor  
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*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? 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. Those who are able, 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 23, 2020**

*Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.*

*Today we commemorate Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156. Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith*

**PRELUDE:** *Meditation – Elegie – Felix Borowski*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #834: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

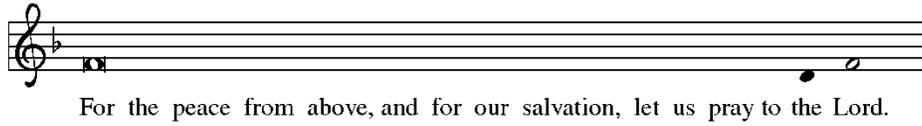
**\*GREETING**

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.**

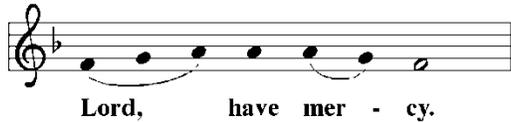
**KYRIE**



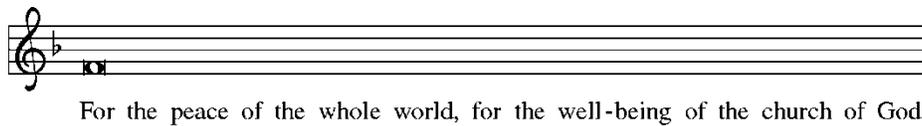
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



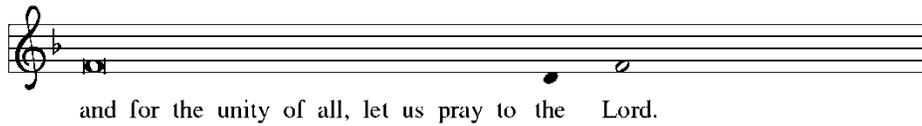
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



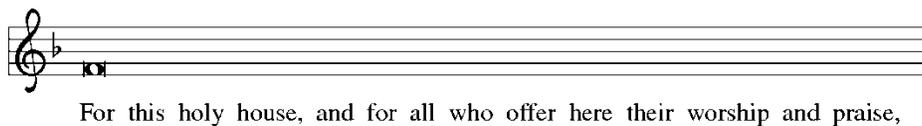
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



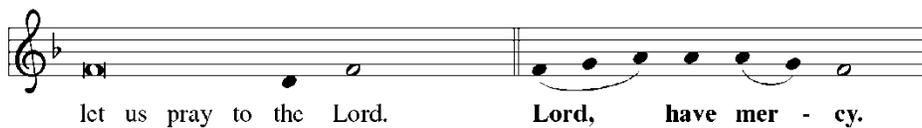
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



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

# GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y 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,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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: Exodus 24:12-18

A reading from Exodus.

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 119



You are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

<sup>1</sup>Why are the nations | in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

<sup>2</sup>**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot together,  
against the LORD and against the | LORD’s anointed?**

<sup>3</sup>“Let us break their | yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their | bonds from us.”

<sup>4</sup>**God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;  
the LORD holds them | in derision. R**

<sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God | speaks to them,  
and in rage fills | them with terror.

<sup>6</sup>**“As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king  
upon Zion, my | holy mountain.”**

<sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,  
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you.

<sup>8</sup>**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for | your possession. R**

<sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an | iron rod  
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”

<sup>10</sup>**And now, you | kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the | LORD with fear,  
and with trembling | bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup>lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden | blaze of wrath.  
**Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God! R**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

A reading from 2 Peter.

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



*Cantor: Alleluia. This is my | Son, my Chosen,\* lis- | ten to him! Alleluia. (Luke 9:35)*

**\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 17:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #718: *In a Lowly Manger Born***

### 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

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Holy God, your loving power is at work among us. Rouse and embolden your church, that we too might be transfigured, set alight in the world for the sake of the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awesome God, you speak and the earth trembles. You display your majesty in the mountains and your mystery in the clouds. Grant that we discover your magnificence in all of your created world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruler of nations, your reign extends across all human borders. Guide world leaders in justice and righteousness, that they may work for equity for all people and protect the world that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are a refuge for all who are neglected and abused. Bring freedom to those who are oppressed and give comfort to those experiencing pain of any kind, especially Sally, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Bill, Karen, Grace, Ellen. For those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of Moses and Elijah, you made your dwelling place at the top of a mountain with Jesus and his disciples. Dwell also in this congregation, that all who enter this community might be transformed by your dazzling brilliance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, you offer eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the witness of those who lived and died in the faith, especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, whose martyrdom in the early church we remember this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM – *I'd Rather Have Jesus***

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold, I'd rather be His than have riches untold, I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands, I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hand than to be the king of a vast domain, or be held in sin's dread sway. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.*

*I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause, I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause, I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame, I'd rather be true to His holy name than to be the king of a vast domain, or be held in sin's dread sway. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***

*Please stand.*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.  
God of wonder,  
you formed us in our mother's womb,  
and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine.  
We place them on your table,  
together with our lives and all that you have made.  
Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.  
We wait for your mercy;  
we long for your peace;  
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,  
our banquet of life.

**Amen.**

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

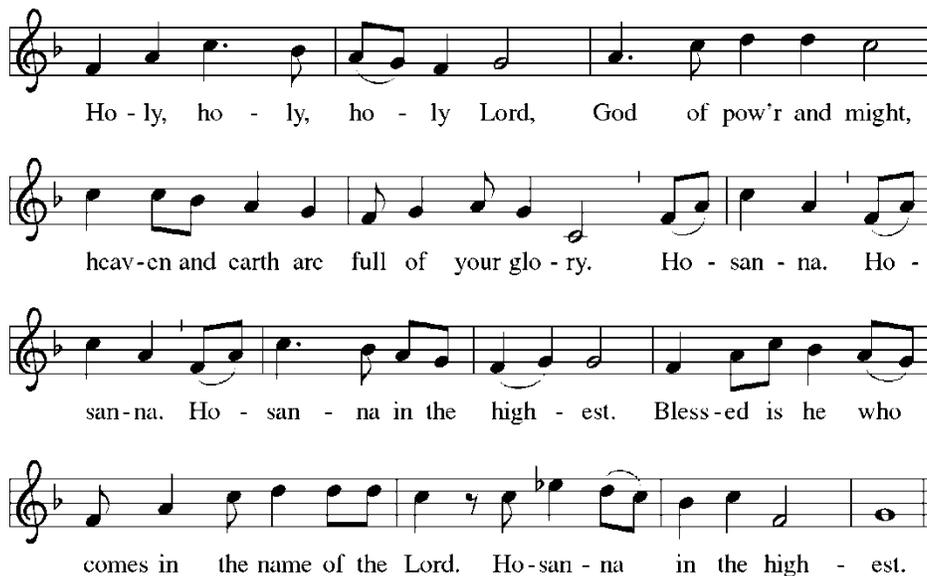
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:



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.

Blessed are you, O God:  
you are the Life and Light of all.  
By your powerful word you created all things.  
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.  
He is your Light, shining in our darkness  
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again,  
we await that day when all the universe  
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,  
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table of mercy and joy.

*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. Gluten free wafers are available.*

**COMMUNION**

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

**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 treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have'. The second staff continues with 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The third staff continues with 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the'. The fourth staff concludes with 'sin of the world; grant us peace.' The word 'grant' is underlined with a curved line.

**COMMUNION HYMN #838: *Beautiful Savior***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
Faithful God,  
you have kept your promise to us in this meal,  
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.  
Now send your servants forth in peace,  
that we may testify to your goodness  
and share the hope that is ours  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son, we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.

**Amen.**

### \*BLESSING

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God,  
and the source of our life together,  
keep you united in mind and purpose.  
And the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the  $\text{†}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you always.

**Amen.**

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

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Meditation – Elegie* – Felix Borowski

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#### 8:00 am

<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	<b>Matt Claus</b>
<b>Communion Assistant:</b>	
<b>Lector:</b>	
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Clarence Strabel</b>
<b>Attendance Last Week:</b>	64
<b>Attendance Last Year:</b>	52
<b>Weekly Budgeted Expense:</b> \$	3,323.24
<b>YTD Budgeted Expenses:</b> \$	26,585.88
<b>YTD Actual Expense:</b> \$	24,265.74

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#### 10:30 am

<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	<b>Melissa Kramer</b>
<b>Communion Assistant:</b>	
<b>Lector:</b>	
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Jim Ward</b>
<b>Last Week's General Giving:</b>	\$ 1,722.35*
<b>Last Week's Designated Giving:</b>	\$ 712.65 **
<b>2020 YTD General Giving:</b>	\$ 26,193.96
<b>2020 YTD Designated Giving:</b>	\$ 4,011.69
<b>2020 YTD Receipts:</b>	\$ 30,205.65

#### **Special items included in totals:**

<b>*Ash Wednesday/Lent</b>	\$ 1.00
<b>**Benevolence</b>	\$ 90.65
<b>**Food Bank</b>	\$ 6.00
<b>**Mission Emphasis</b>	\$ 516.00
<b>**Mission Endowment</b>	\$ 100.00