



“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”

Mark 9: 2

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 11, 2024
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Mars, PA 16046-0411
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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin. Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.*

All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. Visitor information cards and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*At the time of **Holy Communion**, all are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

If you need a restroom, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE: Prelude In C Major by: JS Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONG *O Jesus, I Have Promised* (ELW 810)**



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

*THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. 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. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 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.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. 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.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

A reading from 2 Kings

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah 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. ³The 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.”

⁴Elijah 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. ⁵The 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.”

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

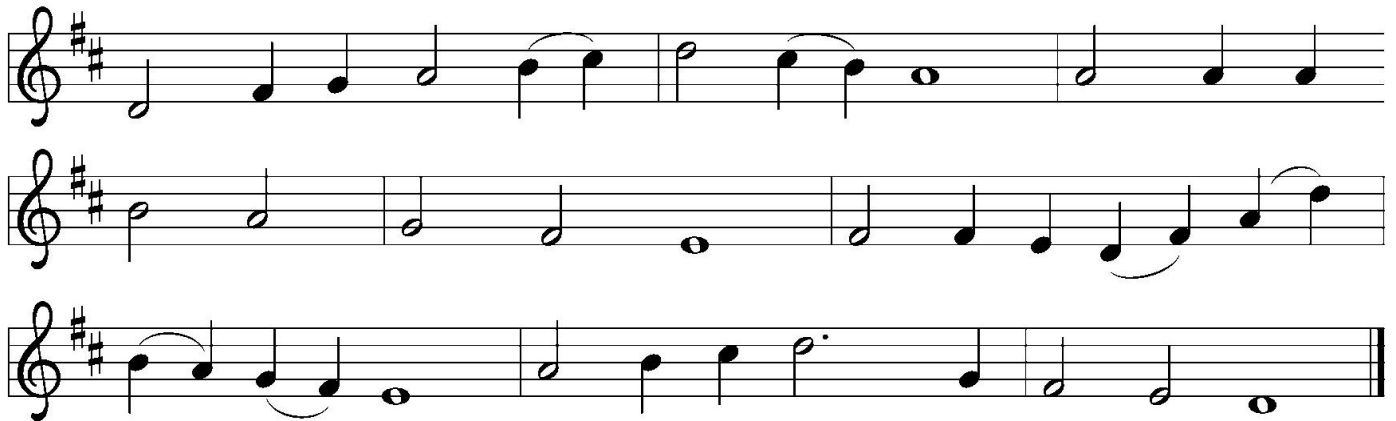
⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As 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.

¹²Elisha 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 earth from east to west;
From Zion, perfect in its grace,
God's glory will be manifest.**

**2. Our God will come with raging storm,
Consuming flame and not be still;
God calls the heavens above and earth
That all may know God's righteous will.**

**3. "Assemble all my followers
Who sealed the bond with sacrifice";
For God the righteous Lord is judge;
Let heaven declare God's cause is right**


SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

A reading from 2 Corinthians

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:2-9

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus on the Mountain Peak* (ELW 317)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected during the song.)



1 Je - sus on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in
2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets



glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law
in its thun - der Je - sus as the Son by name!
sing be - fore him, first and last and on - ly One.



join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.
shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing:
Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der:
All cre - a - tion shall a - dore him!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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**

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

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for any who are sick and suffering especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Bill, Marcia, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God who hears our cries, we lift before you the prayers we do not yet know how to speak and those we lift before you now (*received prayer cards are read*). Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer this prayer in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

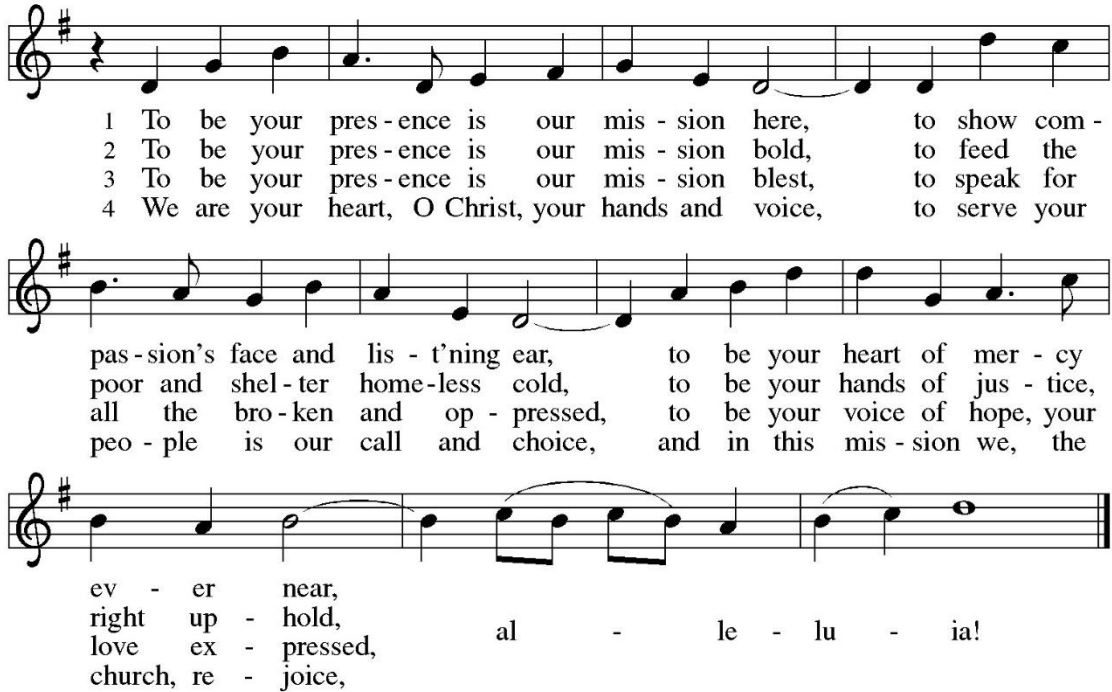
The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share God's peace with one another

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *To Be Your Presence* (ELW 546)



1 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion here, to show com-
2 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your
pas-sion's face and lis-t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer-cy
poor and shel-ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus-tice,
all the bro-ken and op-pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo-ple is our call and choice, and in this mis-sion we, the
ev-er near,
right up-hold, al-le-lu-ia!
love ex-pressed,
church, re-joice,

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE

*OFFERTORY HYMN *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful* (ELW 184)



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.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Lord God, we praise you and we thank you for your tender, faithful love, for your abundant grace, and for your everlasting mercy.

Into your hands, almighty God,

we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours.

Into your hands, incarnate Savior,

we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling.

Into your hands, O hovering Spirit,

we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, and your grace renew soul and body, in life and in death, now and forever.

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us –

our selves, our time, and our possessions. We offer these gifts today, and in joy and thanksgiving for all that you are and all that you provide, we pray you will guide us to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us: to share our time, our talent, and our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus. Receive our gifts today and the gifts we will give for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 may be nourished for the journey and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **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 on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

**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**

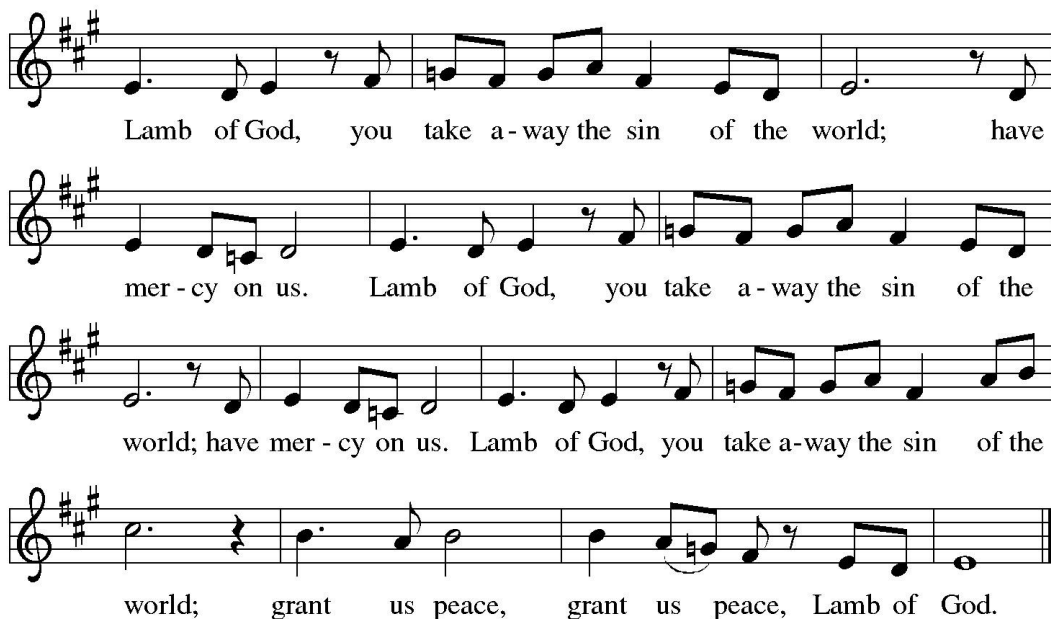
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



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, Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Beautiful Savior* (ELW 838)



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Have You Thanked the Lord* (ELW 829)**

Refrain

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you praised God's name?

Don't you know that no to - mor - row is quite the same?

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you knelt in prayer,

and re-joyced that, rain or sun-shine, our God is there?

- 1 Hal - le - lu - jah! Thank the Lord for sun, sand, and sea,
- 2 Hal - le - lu - jah! Par - a - dise we taste where we are;
- 3 Hal - le - lu - jah! Joy and peace the Sav - ior will bring.

ev - 'ry star at night that shines for you and me.
 sum - mer breez - es, win - ter warmth are nev - er far.
 Grace a - maz - ing! So we lift our voice and sing,

Bless - ings so man - y come our way:
 God's love is ev - er on dis - play:
 grate - ful when clouds are bright or gray:

have you thanked the Lord to - day?
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?

Refrain

***DISMISSAL**

“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus . . . May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (*Romans 15:5, 13*)

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Variations on Hyfrydol by Benton Price

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Valerie C

Acolyte: Ava N

Greeter: Ruth Ann T

Ushers: John Tully

Offering: Anna K & Nathan K

Attendance last week: 57 + 3 zoom

Notes for the day’s texts:

The transfiguration is one of those ancient events that still puzzle us. What really happened to Jesus that day? Since we cannot go back to that time, we are left to speculate. We take stabs in the dark and make educated guesses, but at the end of the day we are left with a holy mystery to ponder.

Whatever happened that day, there is a timeless spiritual reality behind the physical details Mark gives us. God sometimes uses extreme and amazing methods to transform us when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. God’s spirit transfigured Jesus then. That same Spirit is still transforming people today. We don’t have to explain first-century miracles to trust that God’s transforming Spirit is timeless and at work within each of us today. We do not have to understand everything to see the beauty of God at work in the world, continually transfiguring us into the people we were created to be.

Today’s Music

O Jesus, I Have Promised. Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt., Music: Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693. Public Domain.

Psalm 50. Text: *The New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008. Music: *ST. THOMAS*, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776, Public Domain.

Jesus on the Mountain Peak. Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, Music: Mark Sedio, b. 1954. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Augsburg Fortress.

To Be Your Presence. Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939, Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924. GIA Publications, Inc./ Public Domain.

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful. Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927. Augsburg Fortress / Lutheran Book of Worship.

Beautiful Savior. Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904, Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent. Public Domain.

Have You Thanked the Lord? Text: Bill LaMotta, 1919-1980, Music: Bill LaMotta. Joyce A. Lamotta/ Augsburg Fortress.

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Next Week’s Readings

Genesis 9:8-17 *The rainbow, sign of God’s covenant*

Psalm 25:1-10 *Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness*

1 Peter 3:18-22 *Saved through water*

Mark 1:9-15 *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*