

Epiphanytide

FEBRUARY 9, 2025 ◦ SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD



Transfiguration of Christ (1520). Gerard David (c. 1460-1523). Oil on panel.

THE ETERNAL FATHER CALLS DOWN FROM HEAVEN ABOUT HIS DEAR SON AND ABOUT ALL WHO PREACH REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS IN HIS NAME, "LISTEN TO HIM" (MATTHEW 17:5).

ALL WHO WANT TO BE SAVED OUGHT TO LISTEN TO THIS PREACHING. FOR THE PREACHING AND HEARING OF GOD'S WORD ARE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INSTRUMENTS. BY, WITH, AND THROUGH THESE INSTRUMENTS THE SPIRIT DESIRES TO WORK EFFECTIVELY, TO CONVERT PEOPLE TO GOD, AND TO WORK IN THEM BOTH TO WILL AND TO DO [PHILIPPIANS 2:13].

-FORMULA, SOLID DECLARATION. ARTICLE II. FREE WILL. 51-52.

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE

“Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved”. -*Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV. The Mass, 1-2a*



PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art

Stuart W. K. Hine

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 413

“O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair”

1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray
4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high
△ 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son

Of glo - ry that the Church may share,
The in - car - nate Lord holds con - verse high;
Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day
By this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,
And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one,

Which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,
And from the cloud the Ho - ly One
What glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove
For which in joy - ful strains we raise
We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace

Where bright - er than the sun He glows!
Bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.
Who joy in God with per - fect love.
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
To see Thy glo - ry face to face.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Kneeling or sitting forward.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Ninth Commandment:

- *Do I have strong wants, desires, or cravings that consume my thoughts?*
- *Do I resent or envy those who have more than I?*
- *Do I neglect my marriage, family, church, and other relationships in a desperate attempt to satisfy the wants and desires of my flesh?*
- *Have my wants kept me from being happy with and thankful for what God has given me?*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.

Standing

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 84:1-2a, 4, 10-11; antiphon: Psalm 77:18b



- L** Your lightnings lighted | up the world;*
the earth trem- | bled and shook.
- L** How lovely is your dwelling place, O | LORD of hosts!*
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts | of the LORD.
- C** **Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,*
ever sing- | ing your praise!**
- L** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand | elsewhere.*
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the
tents of | wickedness.
- C** **For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk up- | rightly.**



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

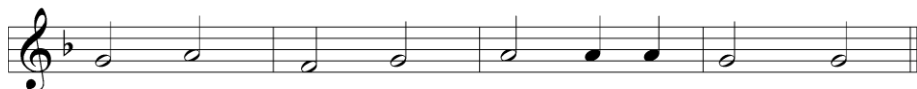
- L** Your lightnings lighted | up the world;*
the earth trem- | bled and shook.

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47



G Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high; and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sitting

PROPHECY

Exodus 34:29-35

A The Prophecy for the Transfiguration of Our Lord is from Exodus, chapter 34.

A In those days: When Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as

commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalm 96:2-3



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

- ☐ Sing to the LORD; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventeenth chapter.

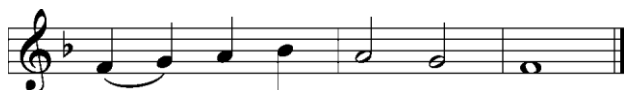


☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

- ☐ At that time: Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud

overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

- ☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

Fourth Part of Baptism

P What does such baptizing with water indicate?

C It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P Where is this written?

C St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."
Romans 6:4

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 395

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!
from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.
not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!



Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-
In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-
Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls
Your Son has ran-somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on-ly!
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup-ply-ing.
with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear-est trea-sure!
here and a-bove: This is Your great sal-va-tion.



Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic-to-rious,
Now, though dai-ly Earth's deep sad-ness May per-plex us
Let Your mer-cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the liv-ing, To us giv-ing



Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!
And dis-tress us, Yet with heav'n-ly joy You bless us.
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
Life for-ev-er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev-er!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

SERMON

Standing

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sitting

OFFERING

O Worship the King

William Croft

Standing

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P Heavenly Father, You revealed Your glory in the transfiguration of Your Son, who tabernacled among us in the flesh. Open our eyes, that we by faith may see Him dwelling among us in the Divine Service. Grant that we would heed Your admonition to “listen to Him” as He forgives and preserves us at the font, pulpit and altar. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, with the appearance of Moses and Elijah at our Lord’s glorious transfiguration, You reveal to us that the Law and the prophets are fulfilled in Him. Send Your blessing upon pastors and servants of Your Church, that their preaching and teaching would flow from this right understanding of Christ and His work for our eternal salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, remember Your flock here at Lutheran Church of the Ascension. Grant us faithfulness, humility and patience in our various vocations as we strive to love You and our neighbor in all we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, bless the families of Your Church, that parents would teach the faith to their children and that the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in all households. Remember all expectant mothers, that they and their babies would be kept safe and healthy throughout their pregnancies. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of the nations, You have established all authority to be a blessing. Remember those entrusted with civil authority here and in every place, and enable them to serve with wisdom and integrity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all comfort, look with compassion on the sick and suffering, [*especially _____*] that they would know Your peace and receive healing according to Your gracious will. Be near to all who mourn, [*especially _____*] and comfort them with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, You gather Your people in fellowship around the Word and Your table. Be present also with the lonely, that they may rejoice in the community of faith. Comfort the homebound, that they would be kept in prayer and sustained through the gracious visitation of Your people and their pastor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember on this day the glorious manifestation of Your Son's divinity on the Mount of Transfiguration. Teach us to listen to Jesus and ever fix our eyes on Him and His innocent suffering and death for our forgiveness. By Your grace and mercy, strengthen us to remain faithful in all circumstances of trial, temptation and persecution. Preserve us to the end, that we may die a blessed death believing in Your beloved Son with whom You are well pleased; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

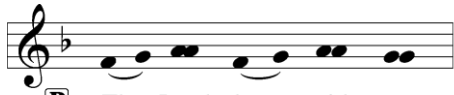
Following the prayers, please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for worthy reception of the Holy Supper.

Please remain standing.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



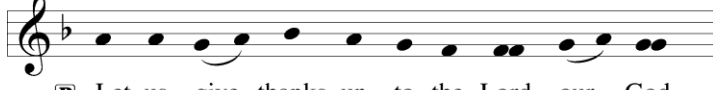
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

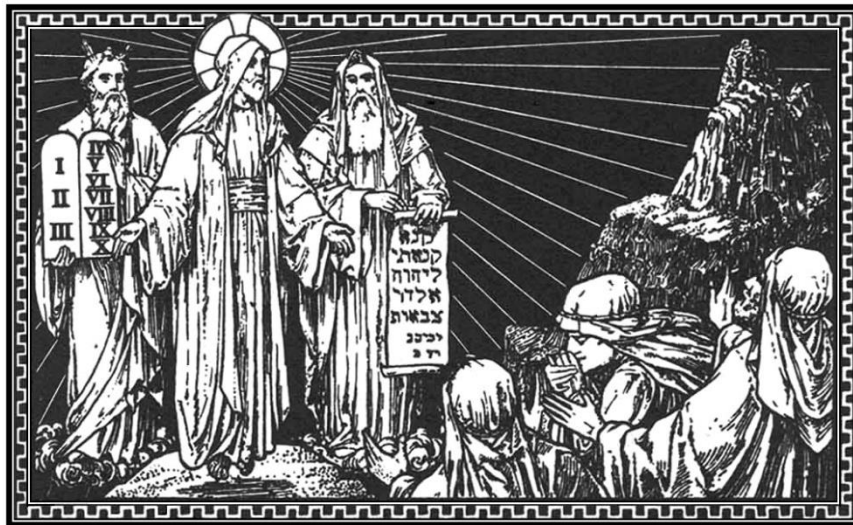


P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



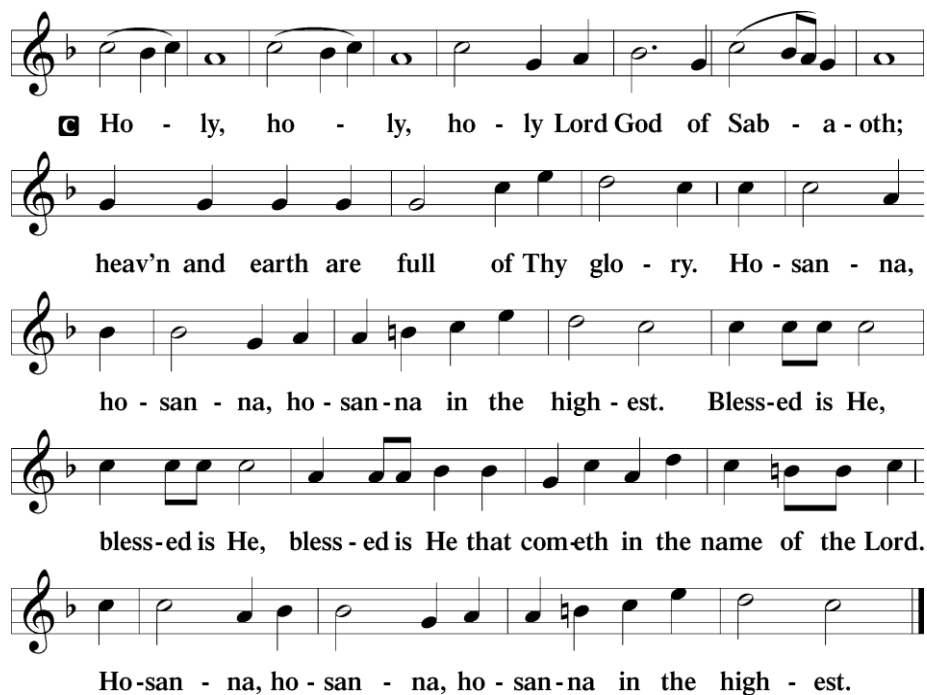
C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who at His transfiguration revealed His glory to His disciples that they might be strengthened to proclaim His cross and resurrection and with all the faithful look forward to the glory of life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Kneeling or sitting forward.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,
and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My [†] bod - y, which is giv-en for you.
This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so
He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it
to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

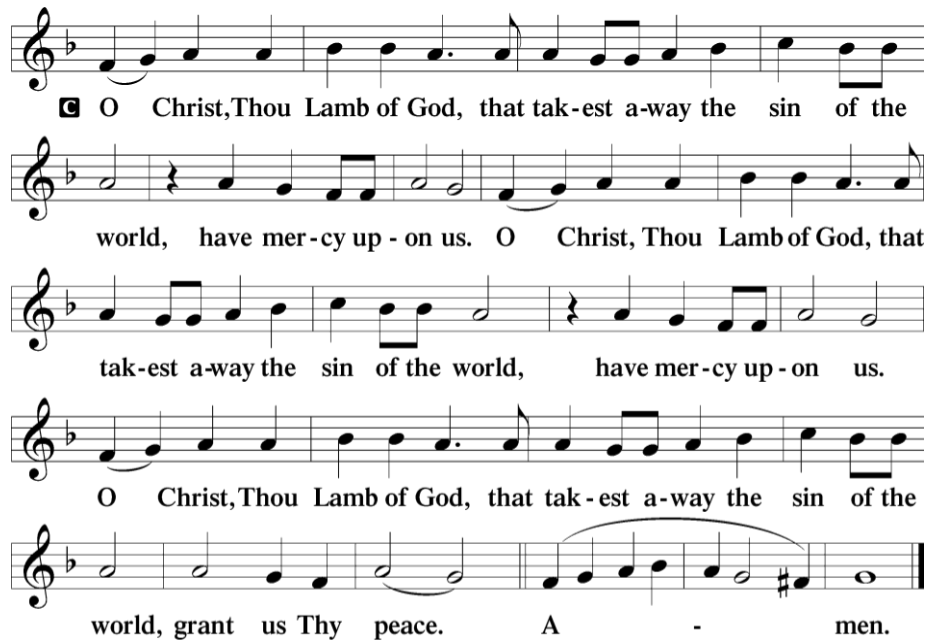
PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
C A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sitting

About participation in the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

*(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from *Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper*, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)*

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 415

"Jesus On the Mountain Peak"



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!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!

Lutheran Service Book 537

"Beautiful Savior"



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



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!



1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy
 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past And
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, We
 5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet



glo - ry fills the night; Thy face and gar - ments,
 beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -
 hope of things to be, We hail Thy bod - y
 see Thy king - dom come; We long to hold the
 we may not re - main; But since Thou bidst us

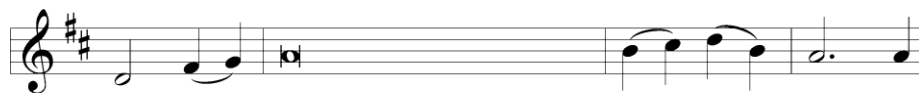


like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.
 glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
 vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.
 leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

Standing

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



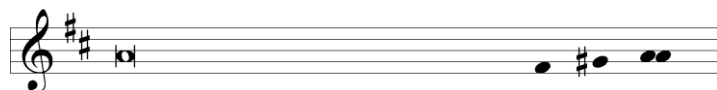
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



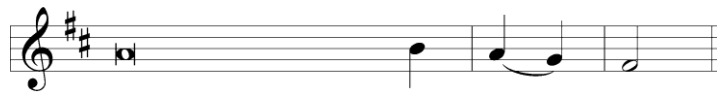
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
 His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.
G A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 417

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while
 4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed
 can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
 lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,
 here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions
 Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter
 Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of
 All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -
 Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn
 With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -
 God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
 time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.
 ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

POSTLUDE

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Clarence A. Walcott

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Grayson Beckman, *Chair of Elders*

Emilie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Laura Darden, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Briana Darden

Altar Guild

Linda Rathje

Usher(s)

Isaac Beckman/Joel May

(Ryan Licht)

Fellowship Host(s)

Nancy Grossberg

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Grayson Beckman, *Chair of Elders*

Emilie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Laura Darden, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Briana Darden

Altar Guild

Jeni Miller/Kati & Hank Durden

Usher(s)

Isaac Beckman/Joel May

(Ryan Licht)

Fellowship Host(s)

The Schoellen family

L

OVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT
COMMANDMENT. THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF.”

-JESUS CHRIST (MT. 22:37-39)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 2/9	The Transfiguration of Our Lord Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The History of the Kingdom of Israel</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Open Arms Board Meeting Super Bowl Party	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass Following Fellowship Hour 6:00 PM
Monday 2/10	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 2/11	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 2/12	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:15 AM
Thursday 2/13	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 2/14	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 2/15	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 2/16	Septuagesima Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The History of the Kingdom of Israel</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Church Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass Following Fellowship Hour

LOVING THE LORD

✠ **Adult Bible Study:** *The History of the Kingdom of Israel*

Sundays at 9:00 A.M.
Church fellowship hall

A barren woman's miraculous pregnancy. God passed over for a human king. The wicked sons of a righteous prophet. A king's crimes of murder and adultery. A son's coup against his father's throne. A prophet's persecution. The Word of God lost and found again. These are just a handful of what you will encounter in this provocative Bible study covering the history of the kingdom of Israel. We began with 1 and 2 Samuel, now we will pick up with 1 Kings, as we continue the turbulent history of God's people and their Lord's unwavering faithfulness.

✠ **Small Group Bible Study:** *The Books of the Church*

Sunday March 23 at 3:30 P.M.: Judith; Wisdom of Solomon; Tobit
Sunday April 27 at 3:30 P.M.: Ecclesiasticus (Sirach); Baruch; The Letter of Jeremiah
Sunday May 25 at 3:30 P.M.: 1 & 2 Maccabees
Pastor Miller's home (see church directory for address)

God has blessed us with His inspired Word in the canon of Holy Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, God has given us everything we need to establish the doctrine of His Church. Nevertheless, there are ecclesiastical texts that, while not inspired by the Holy Spirit, are still helpful in recording the history of God's people and clarifying biblical contexts. Even Martin Luther retained many of these texts in his German translation of the Bible. Lutherans since have also included them in their daily lectionary. And the Jews in Jesus' day made frequent use of them in their Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament).

This might explain why the Bible itself makes references to them. For example, when Jesus calls Himself "the Light of the world" (John 8:12), it's in the context of Hanukkah which originated in 1 Maccabees. And the author of Hebrews refers to Tobit when he says, "some have entertained angels unawares" (13:2), and 2 Maccabees when Hebrews says, "women received back their dead, raised to life again" (11:35). Because these texts have been judged as worthwhile reading in the Church, yet not to detract from God's inspired Word in Sunday Adult Bible Class, we would like to begin a supplemental Small Group Bible Study.

Concordia Publishing House (LCMS) has compiled *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes*. It is available for purchase at \$44.99 through its website (cph.org). This is a nice companion volume to your *Lutheran Study Bible*. However, a bare bones version of the texts is also available at no cost online via apocrypha.org.

✦ Sermons on YouTube

Missed a sermon? Had to walk out halfway through? Want to hear it again? No problem! Most sermons are now being recorded and posted to an official YouTube channel for you to watch at your leisure. Simply type in <https://www.youtube.com/@lcaatlanta> and you will be directed to the YouTube page where you have access to Pastor Miller's sermons online. Sermons are posted in the order of the date they were preached.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

✦ LCMS Disaster Response: Support Victims of the California Wildfires

The wildfires that began in Los Angeles County, California, earlier this week continue to inflict widespread damage and suffering throughout the Los Angeles area. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is in close communication with the LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSD) regarding the response.

As with past disasters, LCMS Disaster Response will walk alongside the PSD and its congregations to assist with the response. That response consists not only of spiritual support in the form of prayers and spiritual resources to assist church workers as they care for their congregations, but practical support in the form of ongoing counsel and advice, and material support in the form of supplies, grants and volunteers.

If you would like to financially support the church's response to wildfires in California, please prayerfully consider a contribution to:

LCMS Pacific Southwest District (<https://www.psd-lcms.org/disaster-response>)

LCMS Disaster Response (<https://www.lcms.org/givenow/wildfires>)

If you would prefer to mail a check, please send it to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write "Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206)" or "Disaster Response—Wildfire (NM8020-26020)." For other options, contact Mission Advancement by calling 800-930-4438 or emailing mission.advancement@lcms.org.

In addition, please continue to keep all who are suffering the effects of these fires, and all who are offering assistance, in your prayers.

✦ **Super Bowl Party**

Sunday February 9 at 6:00 P.M.
Church fellowship hall

Join us for food, fellowship, and football! The big game between the Chiefs and Eagles is a great excuse to get together and have some fun. In addition to streaming the game live, there will be games, raffles, and activities for the whole family. Pizza and wings will be made available. All are welcome to bring a salad, side, or dessert to share. Also, you're welcome to bring a drink of your choice. See you at the Super Bowl!

✦ **Congregational Potluck: Dishes We Love**

Sunday February 23, following Mass
Church fellowship hall

February is the month of Valentine's Day, so what could be more appropriate than sharing a dish you love with the church family you love! After all, the best food is always made with a special ingredient: "love." Everything's better with a little added TLC. All are welcome then to bring a main course, side, salad, drink or dessert for all to enjoy. We request that persons with the last name M-Z please plan to stay and help clean up after the event. Thank you!

✦ **Book Club: *Travels with Charley***

Sunday March 9 at 3:30 P.M.
Tom & Linda's Home (see church directory for address)

Read *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck (author of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*) to discuss with the Book Club. New attendees are always welcome!

Here's what some people are saying about *Travels with Charley*:

An intimate journey across America, as told by one of its most beloved writers

To hear the speech of the real America, to smell the grass and the trees, to see the colors and the light — these were John Steinbeck's goals as he set out, at the age of fifty-eight, to rediscover the country he had been writing about for so many years.

With Charley, his French poodle, Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads, dines with truckers, encounters bears at Yellowstone and old friends in San Francisco. Along the way he reflects on the American character, racial hostility, the particular form of American loneliness he finds almost everywhere, and the unexpected kindness of strangers.

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- ✝ Kati Durden, 2/11

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):

- ✝ Hank Durden, 2/13

Wedding Anniversaries:

- ✝ None this week

Membership Anniversaries:

- ✝ Hank Durden, 2/13
- ✝ Jason Schoellen, 2/15

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- ✝ Bill Bigelow (brother of Anne Bigelow)
- ✝ Hellen Kalugendo
- ✝ Betty Licht
- ✝ Donald Licht
- ✝ Rachel Preus (friend of Jeni Miller)

For those requesting special prayers:

- ✝ The health and wellbeing of all the unborn, especially the child of Isaac & Bekah Beckman.
- ✝ Faith Lutheran Church and School in Marietta, that God would provide them with a faithful pastor and principal.

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- ✝ David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- ✝ Will Edinger (friend of the Beckmans)
- ✝ Zachary Harmon (grandson of Steve and Patty Harmon, friends of Ascension)
- ✝ Ruth Henry
- ✝ Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- ✝ Michelle Levell (mother of Margaret Levell)
- ✝ Michelle Noel
- ✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- ✝ Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- ✝ Ed & Jackie Sherwood (grandfather and grandmother of Bekah Beckman)
- ✝ Evan Woolery (son of Tracy and Lucie Woolery)

For the leaders of Church and state:

- ✝ Director Barbara Collins-Hopkins & Open Arms Board
- ✝ English District Bishop Jeffrey G. Miskus & all district officials
- ✝ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- ✝ Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- ✝ Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic
- ✝ President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials

ACCORDING TO CHRIST'S TEACHING THEY [BELIEVERS] SHOULD ABSTAIN FROM THEIR SINS, REPENT, BELIEVE HIS PROMISE, AND ENTIRELY TRUST IN HIM. SINCE WE CANNOT DO THIS BY OURSELVES, BY OUR OWN POWERS, THE HOLY SPIRIT DESIRES TO WORK THESE THINGS—REPENTANCE AND FAITH—IN US THROUGH THE WORD AND SACRAMENTS. IN ORDER THAT WE MAY RECEIVE THIS, PERSEVERE IN IT, AND REMAIN STEADFAST, WE SHOULD BEG GOD FOR HIS GRACE, WHICH HE HAS PROMISED US IN HOLY BAPTISM.

-FORMULA, SOLID DECLARATION. ARTICLE XI. 71.



THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

4000 ROSWELL ROAD · ATLANTA, GA 30342
404-255-0224 · 404-256-0037 FAX
WWW.ASCENSION-LCMS.COM