

Epiphany

JANUARY 25, 2026 • SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD



A

ND THE CITY HAS NO NEED OF SUN OR MOON TO SHINE ON IT, FOR THE
GLORY OF GOD GIVES IT LIGHT, AND ITS LAMP IS THE LAMB.

- REVELATION 21:23

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

Prelude on Deo Gracias (O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair, LSB 413)

by Michael D. Costello

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.

Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross $\text{\textt{T}}$ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the $\text{\textt{T}}$ 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 Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Fourth Commandment:

- *Do I submit to those whom God has put in authority over me?*
- *Have I been ashamed of, angry, stubborn, or disrespectful toward my parents, teachers, employer, pastor, government or other authorities?*
- *Do I obey all the laws of the city, state and country, and pay my rightful share of all taxes?*

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 $\text{\textt{T}}$ 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.



C 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



C 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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

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.

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.

GRADUAL

Psalm 45:2a; 110:1



L You are the most handsome of the sons of men;*
grace is poured up- on your lips.

C The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand,*
until I make your enemies your footstool."

EPISTLE

2 Peter 1:16-21

A The Epistle is from 2 Peter, chapter one.

A Dearly Beloved: We did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Standing

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalm 96:2-3



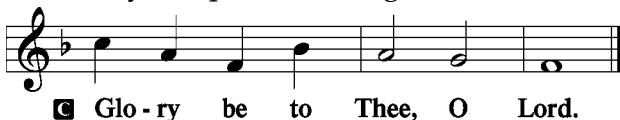
L Sing to the LORD; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

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



P 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES' CREED

[Matthew 10:32]

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.

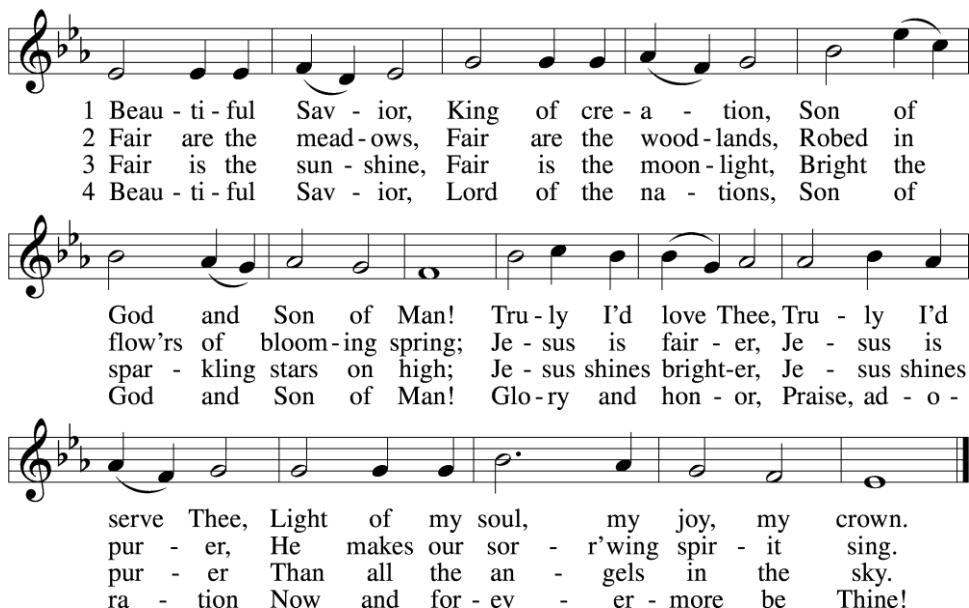
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

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!

SERMON

Standing

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sitting

OFFERING

Beautiful Savior (LSB 537)

Youth Chime Choir

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, in Your Son Your glory tabernacled in human flesh and blood to win for us eternal life. Open the eyes of all people to see Your glory in the face of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, 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 O Lord, lead Your people in Your steadfast love, and guide them in strength to Your holy abode. Sanctify our homes. Be the companion of those who live alone. Make our households places where Your wisdom and grace are found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Father, You alone establish all authority on earth. Bless those entrusted with this responsibility both here and abroad, that they would serve with integrity and honor for the well-being of all. Grant that all division, conflict and strife would give way to unity, peace and quietness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, remember the sick, *[especially _____]* that they would be fully restored to health according to Your will. Yet if it not be Your will, give them grace to accept their affliction. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, bless all who approach the holy altar to receive Your Son's body and blood this day, that they would come in repentance and faith and depart in the peace only Christ can give. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, we thank and praise You for Moses and Elijah; for Peter, James and John; and for all Your saints who gather around the glorified Lord Jesus. Keep us in the faith until such time as You call us to receive our portion with Your saints in light. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, Your power is beyond compare and Your glory beyond understanding. Open our hearts to know You through the glory of Your Son, whose saving will and purpose has rescued us from sin and death and made us Your own people by Baptism and faith; for to You, blessed and eternal Father, belong all honor and glory, worship and praise, with Your beloved Son 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]

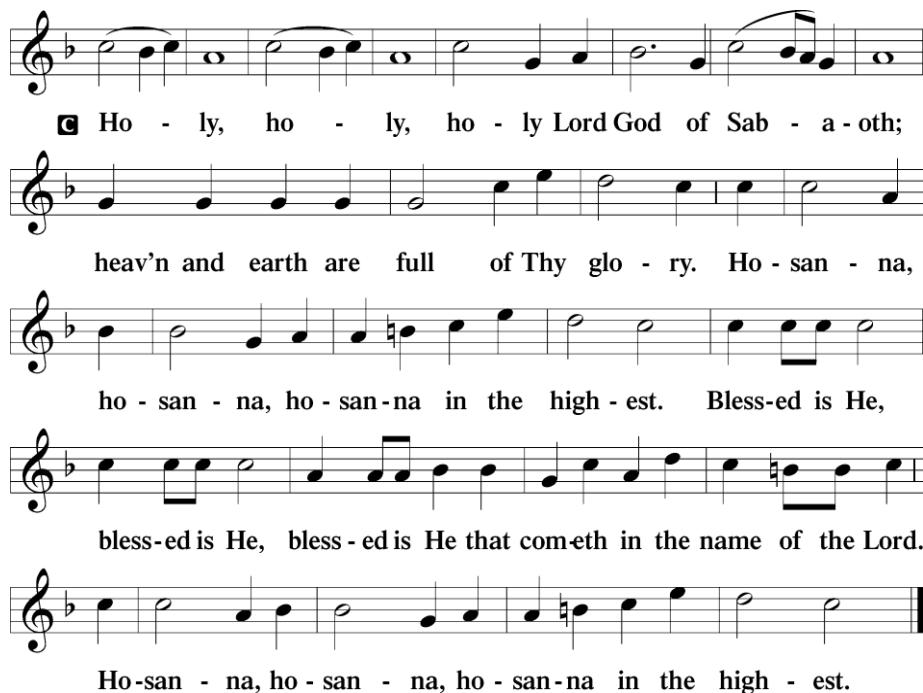
P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up un - to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.

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; 23:39



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

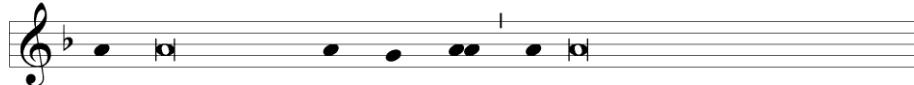
P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
C Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead 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



¶ 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 \ddagger bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



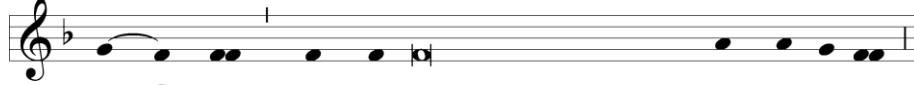
This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



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 \ddagger 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



¶ The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



¶ A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

John 1:29

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first three staves are in common time (indicated by a 'C') and the fourth staff is in 2/4 time (indicated by a '2'). The lyrics are in both English and German, with the German text in a smaller font. The lyrics are:

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 Holy Communion:

All guests and visitors are asked to please speak to Pastor Miler or an elder of the congregation before receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Thank you for observing our practice. For further explanation, see below:

*St. Ignatius of Antioch called Holy Communion "the medicine of immortality." St. Augustine called the Church a "hospital for sinners." And Lutherans in Germany called their clergy *seelsorger*, which means "physician of souls." Because of this, pastoral care in the distribution of Christ's holy body and blood is likened to a doctor's consultation before writing a prescription.*

Because not all medicine is for everyone every time, Pastor Miller asks that guests and visitors please "step into his office" before having their prescription filled. The desire is that all would receive Holy Communion unto salvation by repentance and faith (1 Cor. 11:28-29). But because everyone's spiritual wellbeing is a top priority, pastors are required to be faithful in their stewardship of the sacraments (1 Cor. 4:1-2).

Those who are not receiving the Sacrament but still request a pastoral blessing are invited to approach the altar with arms folded in an "X" over their chests to indicate this desire.

"The custom has been retained among us of not administering the sacrament to those who have not previously been examined and absolved [1 Corinthians 11:27-28]." - Augsburg Confession XXV:1.

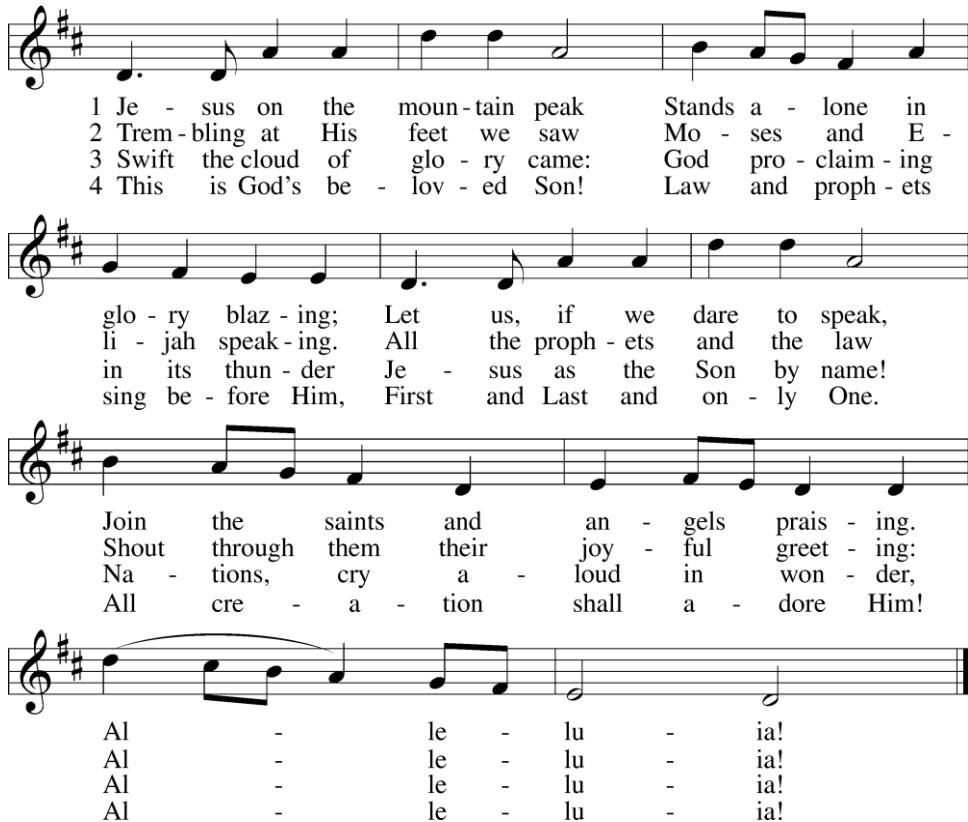
Prayer Before Receiving Holy Communion

I do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. I am not worthy to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant me, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and so to drink His blood, that I may evermore dwell in Him and He in me; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 415

"Jesus on the Mountain Peak"



Text: © 1977 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000947
Tune: © 1998 Theodore A. Beck. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000947

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G clef, common time. The lyrics are integrated into the music with specific notes highlighted. The first staff contains three lines of lyrics: '1 I want to walk as a child of the light.', '2 I want to see the brightness of God.', and '3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.' The second staff contains three lines: 'I want to follow Je-sus.', 'I want to look at Je-sus.', and 'I want to be with Je-sus.' The third staff contains three lines: 'God set the stars to give light to the world.', 'Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,' and 'When we have run with patience the race,'. The fourth staff contains three lines: 'The star of my life is Je-sus.', 'And show me the way to the Fa-ther.', and 'We shall know the joy of Je-sus.' The fifth staff is a 'Refrain' with the lyrics: 'In Him there is no dark-ness at all.' The sixth staff contains three lines: 'The night and the day are both a-like.', 'The Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God.', and 'Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.'

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000947

Prayer After Receiving Holy Communion

Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ my Lord. Grant that I who have received the Sacrament of His body and blood may abide in Him and He in me, that I may be filled with the power of His endless life, now and forever; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Standing

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ *Song of Simeon*

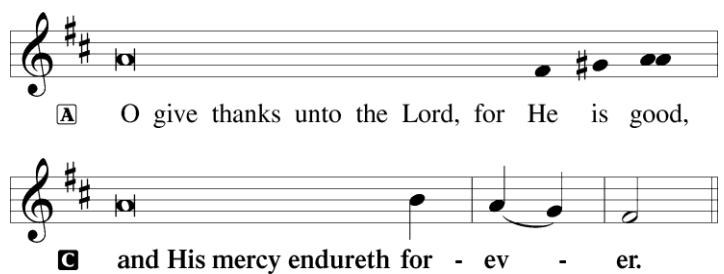
Luke 2:29-32



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



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



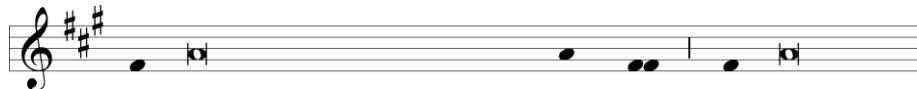
A Bless we the Lord.



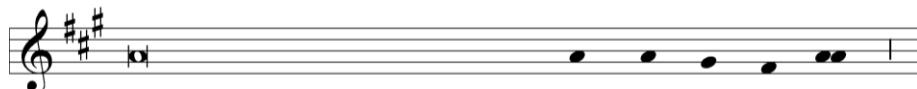
C Thanks be to God.

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.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSATIONAL 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.

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Grayson Beckman, *Chair of Elders*
Jude Miller, *Acolyte/Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Abby Warnke, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Adrian Popescu

Youth Chime Choir

Fred Durden
Eden Miller
Jude Miller
Titus Miller
Katie Schoellen

Musician(s)

Will Davis, trumpet
Patty Harmon, trumpet/French horn

Altar Guild

Ryan Licht/Kati Durden

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Isaac Beckman
(Tom Lawton)

SERVING NEXT WEEK

SEPTUAGESIMA

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Elder*
Emilie Schoellen, *Acolyte*
Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Abby Warnke, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Adrian Popescu

Musician(s)

Will Davis, trumpet
Patty Harmon, trumpet/French horn

Altar Guild

Linda Rathje

Usher(s)

Joel May/Malcolm Abrahaman
(Ryan Licht)

Fellowship Host(s)

Lauren Morr/Nancy Grossberg

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.”

- MATTHEW 22:37-39

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 1/25	The Transfiguration of Our Lord Nursery available Adult Choir Practice Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Imagine the God of Heaven</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour	8:30 – 11:30 AM 8:30 – 9:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass
Monday 1/26	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 1/27	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 1/28	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel Midweek Prayer	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:15 AM 12:15 PM
Thursday 1/29	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 1/30	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 1/31	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 2/1	Septuagesima Nursery available Adult Choir Practice Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Imagine the God of Heaven</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Confirmation: <i>The First Article of the Creed</i>	8:30 – 11:30 AM 8:30 – 9:30 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: *Imagine the God of Heaven*

Sundays at 9:00 A.M., beginning January 18.

Church fellowship hall

Imagine the God of Heaven is a five-session Bible study series, which introduces you to people from all ethnicities who have had near death experiences and met the same loving God. Within five short sessions, John Burke (author of *Imagine the God of Heaven*, and who has researched nearly 2,000 near death experiences) discusses the character traits of this God, who has been revealed throughout history and in Scripture. God's love, power, compassion, friendship, and guidance are closer than you could ever imagine. Find out just how close and real He is for you!

"Captivating stories of near-death experiences with biblical principles." (Lee Strobel)

† Adult Bible Study: *"Follow Me": Discipleship in Matthew*

Sundays at 9:00 A.M. during the season of Lent, beginning February 22.

Church fellowship hall

The phrase "follower of Jesus" like the term "Christian" has become so generic that it means nearly anything and sometimes almost nothing. In "Follow Me," we will dig deeply into the Holy Scriptures to show what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This seven-session Bible study couldn't be more appropriate for Lent as we heed our Lord's command to "take up your cross and follow Me." All are welcome—whether you are new to Bible study or have been reading Scripture for many years. Come deepen your faith, engage in thoughtful discussion, and enjoy fellowship with others.

† Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays at 12:15 P.M.

Church sanctuary

Whether on your lunchbreak or just need a break in your day, we invite you to join us for prayer and meditation on God's Holy Word. Every Wednesday at noon, parents and teachers of Open Arms, as well as anyone from the congregation, are encouraged to come into God's presence. We will hear Him speak through His Word, and we will pray for the world, our nation, and the deeper needs of the church and school communities. This service is simple and brief. But it will allow you to walk away refreshed and ready to finish out the week strong!

† Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary/fellowship hall

Join us on Shrove Tuesday as we gather for a meaningful service that prepares our hearts for the season of Lent. Shrove Tuesday, observed on the day before Ash Wednesday, has been part of the Christian tradition for centuries. The word “shrive” means to confess and receive absolution. Historically, this day was set aside for self-examination, repentance, and forgiveness as believers prepared to enter the 40 days of Lent. It is also known as Pancake Day or Fat Tuesday, marking a final celebration before the more reflective season begins. Our Shrove Tuesday service will include a service of corporate confession, offering us the opportunity to come together in humility, repentance, and renewal as the body of Christ. Following the service, everyone is invited to stay for a fellowship dinner, celebrating our life together in community. A special appearance will be made by the Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, Bishop of the English District. All are welcome—come prepare your heart, share in worship, and enjoy fellowship with one another.

† Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18 at Noon & 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary

You are invited to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service, marking the beginning of the season of Lent—a time of repentance, reflection, and renewal in the life of the Church. Ash Wednesday has been observed by Christians since the early centuries of the Church. On this day, ashes are placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross as a visible sign of our mortality and our need for God’s mercy, echoing the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The ashes call us to repentance and faith as we begin our Lenten journey toward the cross and the resurrection. This service will include a Mass with the Imposition of Ashes. We are also honored to welcome the Bishop of the English District, the Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, who will be preaching. All are welcome to attend as we enter this solemn and hope-filled season together.

† **Lenten Midweek Mass: *The Seven Days of New Creation***

Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary

Throughout the season of Lent, you are invited to join us for Midweek Masses over five weeks, offering a sacred rhythm of worship, reflection, and renewal as we journey toward Easter. Lenten midweek services provide an important opportunity to slow down, repent, and refocus our hearts on Christ's saving work. Gathered around Word and Sacrament, we are strengthened in faith and drawn more deeply into the meaning of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. These services help prepare us spiritually to receive the joy of Easter by walking intentionally through the season of repentance and hope.

This year's sermon series will explore how Christ fulfills the seven days of creation through His ministry—and especially through the events of Holy Week—working faithfully to inaugurate God's new creation. As the first creation was formed through God's purposeful work, so Christ labors in obedience, suffering, and love to bring about restoration, redemption, and new life for all creation. All are encouraged to attend these midweek Masses and enter more fully into the Lenten journey as we prepare our hearts for the victory of Easter.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

† **Luncheon and Fellowship for Seniors of Ascension**

Wednesday, February 4 at 11:00 P.M.
Church overflow room

All seniors of Ascension are warmly invited to gather for a time of fellowship and connection! Bring your own lunch and enjoy sharing a meal together in good company. Following the luncheon, you are encouraged to stay for Midweek Prayer at 12:15 PM. Join us for food, fellowship, and prayer as we spend time together in community. Please register on the signup sheet in the narthex. Your friends will be waiting for you!

† **Super Bowl Party**

Sunday, February 8 at 3:30 P.M. (6:00 start time).
The Morrs (see church directory for home address)

Whether you're a football fan or just there for the fellowship, you won't want to miss the annual Super Bowl Party! Hot dogs, burgers, and beer will be provided. Attendees are invited to bring a big game appetizer or snack to share. See you there!

† **Men's Group: "You are a Royal Priesthood" Bible Breakfast**

Saturday, February 28 at 10:00 A.M.
Church sanctuary

All men are invited to our upcoming Men's Bible Breakfast for a time of fellowship, food, and study in God's Word. Breakfast items and beverages will be provided and served—no need to bring anything but your appetite and an open heart. Enjoy a relaxed meal together as we gather around the table. Our Bible study theme will focus on who we are as a "Royal Priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9) and what that identity means for our daily lives, faith, and witness. We'll explore how God calls us to live with purpose, humility, and boldness as men set apart for His work. Come be encouraged, challenged, and strengthened alongside other men as we grow together in Christ. We look forward to seeing you there!

† **Book Club: *The Deerslayer* by James Fenimore Cooper**

Sunday, May 10 at 3:00 P.M.
Pastor Miller's home

Everyone is invited to join our Book Club for fellowship and discussion! We'll gather to talk about our new book, share insights, and encourage one another. No need to be an expert—just come ready to listen and participate. All are welcome!

From the inside dust jacket flap:

The deadly crack of a long rifle and the piercing cries of Indians on the warpath shatter the serenity of beautiful Lake Glimmerglass. Danger has invaded the vast forests of upper New York State as Deerslayer and his loyal Mohican friend Chingachgook attempt the daring rescue of an Indian maiden imprisoned in a Huron camp. Soon they are caught in the cross fire between a cunning enemy and two white bounty hunters who mercilessly kill for profit.

The last of the Leatherstocking Tales to be written, though first in the chronology of the hero's life, The Deerslayer is James Fenimore Cooper's masterpiece. A fine combination of romance, adventure, and morality, this classic novel of the frontier is an eloquent beginning for Cooper's great wilderness saga—and an unforgettable introduction to the famous character who has been said to embody the conscience of America: the noble woodsman Deerslayer.

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- † Ruth Henry, 1/25
- † Fred Durden, 1/31

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):

- † None this week

Confirmation Anniversary:

- † None this week

Wedding Anniversaries:

- † Grayson & Margaret Beckman, 1/25

Membership Anniversaries:

- † None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- † Rev. Dr. James Clark (friend of the congregation)
- † James Houchin (friend of Jordan Tomesch)
- † Cathy Hoyer (aunt of Pastor Miller)
- † John Kateau
- † Gerhard (Gary) Knehans (brother of Jan Knehans)
- † John Lamb (father of Pastor Miller's friend)
- † Betty Licht
- † Nena Nnanna (Open Arms teacher)
- † Carol Scheid (mother of Pastor Miller's friend)
- † Joshua Schoellen (brother of Jason Schoellen)
- † Melanie Schoellen (sister of Jason Schoellen)
- † Rev. Aaron Sterling (Senior Pastor of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta)
- † Mike Warnke (father of Abby Warnke)
- † Paul Von Wedel (father of Jill Drachenberg)
- † Carolyn Wills (friend of Clara Smith)

Other Recent Requests

- † Tanzania, especially the persecuted Christians, that God would heal all divisions.

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- † David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- † David and Phyllis Beckman (parents of Brian Beckman)
- † Thomasena Gaither (sister of Ruth Henry)
- † Ruth Henry
- † John & Felista Kaale (uncle & aunt of Hellen Kaale)
- † Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- † Shirley Lee (friend of Ruth Henry)
- † Jean Meyers (former member of Ascension)
- † Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- † Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- † Pat Vines (mother of Darlene Beckman's friend)
- † Evan Wells (nephew of Darlene Beckman)
- † Jason Wilson (coworker of Hellen Kaale)

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



ELIEVE IN THE LIGHT WHILE YOU HAVE THE LIGHT, SO THAT YOU MAY
BECOME CHILDREN OF LIGHT."

- JOHN 12:36



THE LUTHERAN
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