

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sunday – February 11, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. Worship

(In-Person & Live -Streamed)



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

1338 Clay Street – Morris, IL – 60450

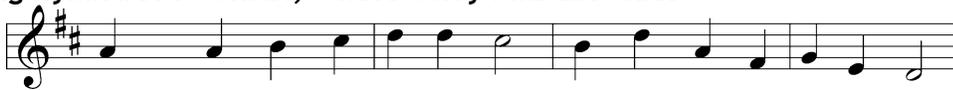
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† Call to Worship †

Greeting

Opening Hymn #873 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa-nied by Thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a-rise; Tri - umph o'er the shades of night.
Joy-less is the day's re-turn Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine, Scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
Till they in - ward light im-part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
More and more Thy - self dis-play, Shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88 Tune: attr. Johann G. Werner, 1777–1822 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5 LSB 184

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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

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

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

Confession of Sins

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

† Service of the Word †

Responsive Reading: Psalm 50:1-6

P¹The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth

C from the rising of the sun to its setting.

P²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,

C God shines forth.

P³Our God comes; He does not keep silence;

C before Him is a devouring fire,
around Him a mighty tempest.

P⁴He calls to the heavens above

C and to the earth, that He may judge His people:

P⁵“Gather to Me My faithful ones,

C who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!”

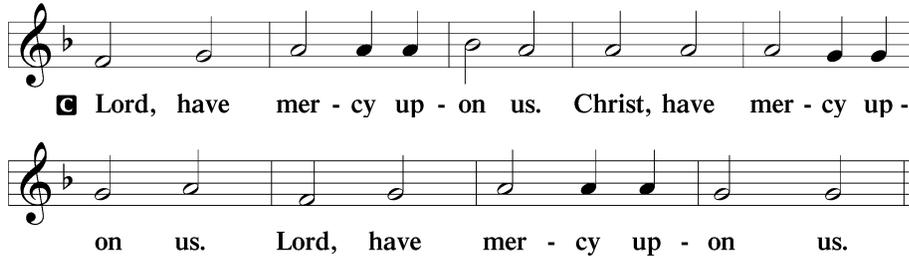
P⁶The heavens declare His righteousness,

C for God Himself is judge!

ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47 LSB 186



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

Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 154

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:
We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.
 For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day: Transfiguration

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

¹When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please 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. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please 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 sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please 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 sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68 LSB 156

C 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the first staff, the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the" are written. The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. Below the second staff, the lyrics "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." are written.

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon Hymn #414 “’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here”



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.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt. Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon “Well Lit in the Darkness!”

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:12–18; 4:1–6

Stand

Apostles’ Creed

**☩ 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.**

Offerings are brought to the LORD’s altar as we sing:

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19 LSB 159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Sit

† Installation of Congregational Officers †

Those to be installed are presented before the altar.

P Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture admonishes us that “all things should be done decently and in order.”

To that end, the constitution and bylaws of this congregation establish various offices to which men and women are elected and appointed to serve. In so doing, the Church follows the example of the Early Christian Church as described in Acts, chapter six:

The twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

The apostle Peter writes in his first epistle:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Each officer is named individually according to his or her respective office.

- P** Bonnie Nelson has been *elected* to serve as Congregational Chair
- P** Lori Stevens has been *elected* to serve as Recording Secretary
- P** Mark Stevens has been appointed to serve as an Elder
- P** Jerald Van Heiden has volunteered to serve on the Properties Committee
- P** Vicki Kahn has volunteered to serve on the Missions/Outreach Committee
- P** Deb Krugler has volunteered to serve on the Missions/Outreach Committee

The pastor addresses the officers-elect:

- P** You have been chosen to fill specific offices and positions of responsibility at Friends In Christ. You are to work with the pastor, that our life together in Christ may be orderly and pleasing in His sight.

You are to see that the services of God's house are held at the proper times, that the Word of God is purely preached and taught according to the Lutheran Confessions, that the Sacraments of Christ are administered according to His institution, that provision is made for the Christian instruction of young and old, that the erring are admonished, and that discipline is maintained.

You are to see that the temporal affairs of the congregation are properly administered and that proper support is provided for the workers of this congregation. You are to assist in caring for the poor and the sick, in cultivating harmony among the members, in promoting the general welfare of the congregation, and in furthering the kingdom of Christ here and throughout the world.

While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you, as office-bearers in His Church, show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the offices entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

- R** *I do.*

The pastor addresses the congregation:

- P** Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as officers of Friends In Christ. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

- C** **We do.**

The pastor addresses the officers-elect:

- P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you as officers of Friends In Christ in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** **Amen.**

- P** The Almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your offices that you may be good and faithful stewards to the glory of His name and the good of His people.

- C** **Amen.**

Stand

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have raised up these servants for work among Your people. We humbly implore You to grant them, by Your Holy Spirit, those gifts needed for the faithful carrying out of their tasks, most especially wisdom, strength, and willing hearts. Let Your blessing rest on this congregation. Strengthen the faith, quicken the love, and enkindle the zeal of its members, that Your name may be glorified and that here and in all places under heaven the kingdom of Your Son may be advanced. We remember with thanksgiving those who have faithfully served Your people and have now completed their time of service. We pray that in the end of days we, with all Your faithful people, may hear the voice of Christ saying: "Come, you who are blessed by My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The Almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Responses:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

P Hear us Father for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who has forgiven our sins, healed our diseases, will one day raise us from the dead and has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sit

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26 LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn #411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



Refrain
In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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