

February 11, 2024

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
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Color-WHITE [Holiness, innocence, and purity]
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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Julie Schubert

The Organist – Daniel Krause

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – David Clifford
The Acolyte – Koal Dockery
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Organist – Dorothy Wachsmann

The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay
The Altar Guild – Lynetta Latimer, Miriam Meyer, Ruth Meyer

The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of the birthdays of Karen Norment this past Friday (9) and Jimmy Norment on Tuesday (13) by their .

TO OUR VISITORS - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless your, and our, hearing of the Word of God. *** Would you please sign the GUEST REGISTER [*please also include your address*] in the NARTHEX before leaving the church?

OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE - PAGE 5 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.

SILENT PRAYER upon entering the nave: Loving heavenly Father! I have come to hear Your Holy Word that makes the soul righteous. So then, put Your Holy Spirit in my heart that I may accept Your Gospel with awe and truly believe it. Amen.

**SUMMARY OF TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS –
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

Jesus is Transfigured and Manifests His Glory The Lord appeared to Moses in the light of the burning bush. (*Exodus 3:1-14*) At the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with the One Who is the Light of Light Himself. (*Matthew 17:1-9*) Jesus’ glory as God shines with brilliant splendor in and through His human nature. By this epiphany, our Lord confirmed the prophetic Word (*2 Peter 1:16-21*), revealing that He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. He manifested His majesty as the eternal Son of the Father, and He wonderfully foreshowed our adoption as sons. We who have been baptized into Christ’s body are given a glimpse of the glory that we will share with Him in the resurrection on the Last Day. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: The Transfiguration of our Lord gives a glorious glimpse of heaven – Jesus standing and talking with His sainted forerunners, Moses and Elijah. But the message God wants us to take from it is directed to the ear: “This is My beloved Son...; listen to Him.”

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 a willingness to do what pleases Him.

God works through this means – that is, the preaching and hearing of His Word. He makes our hearts repentant and draws us to Him. Through the preaching of the law, a person comes to know his sins and God's wrath. He experiences in his heart true terrors, contrition, and sorrow. Through the preaching of, and reflection on, the Holy Gospel about the gracious forgiveness of sins in Christ, a spark of faith is kindled in him. This faith accepts the forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake and comforts itself with the Gospel promise.

So the Holy Spirit, Who does all this, is sent into the heart. If a person will not listen to preaching or read God's Word, but despises God's Word and community, and so dies and perishes in his sins, he cannot comfort himself with God's eternal election or receive His mercy. For Christ, in Whom we are chosen, offers to all people His grace in the Word and holy Sacraments. He sincerely wants it to be heard. He has promised that where two or three are gathered together in His Name and have His Holy Word, He will be in their midst. (*Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration: Free Will and Conversion*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 550

SERVICE OF THE WORD [PAGES 5 TO 14, FRONT OF HYMNAL]

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: Send out Your light and Your truth [O Lord;] let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling! How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord. My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of Your anointed! For the Lord God is a Sun and Shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. He does not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly. (*Psalm 43:3; 84:1-2, 9, 11*)

CONGREGATION: ♪ Glory be to the Father....

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: 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 Your voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with Christ our 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – EXODUS 3:1-14

P: ^{3:1} Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

¹³Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His Name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am." And He said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I Am has sent me to you.'"

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE HALF-PAGE INSERT)

HYMN: 🎵 359

EPISTLE LESSON – 2 PETER 1:16-21

P: ^{1:16}For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 17:1-9

C: 🎵 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 17th chapter.

C: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{17:1}And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You wish, I will make three tents here, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I Am well pleased; listen to Him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: 🎵 Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY: 🎵 135

SERMON: CHRIST'S GREATER GLORY REVEALED IN WATER AND WORD, BODY AND BLOOD, MATTHEW 17:1-9

“And Jesus was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light.” (Mt. 17:2) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Epiphany ends as it begins with the glorification of Christ the eternal Word revealed to us in human flesh. It begins with God the Holy Spirit drawing Wisemen to the infant Lord Jesus, so that their eyes, like Simeon’s, see their salvation which God has prepared before the face of all people. (See Lk. 2:31) And so that they can bow down before Him and worship Him accordingly. (See Mt. 2:11) Epiphany ends with the Transfiguration of God’s Son as His glory shines radiantly through His humanity, and as the glory of God the Father brightly beams from His Son as well.

Today we declare the praises of Jesus Christ Who’s God and man in one person, Who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light! (See 1 Pet. 2:9) Let this last Sunday in Epiphany wrap you in the light and the life of your Redeemer shining brightly in His Transfiguration for you. Let this day fix your eyes and heart on your Savior since He’s your Jesus conversing with Moses and Elijah; He’s your Jesus Who calms and comforts you in all your fears; He’s your Jesus Who’s loved by His Father; your Jesus Who’s commended to you by Him.

There’s no question in Peter, James and John’s mind that Jesus is God at His Transfiguration! There’s to be no doubt in your mind about Jesus’ deity either. What else can you confess of your transfigured Lord but that He’s *“God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God?” (Nicene Creed)* Only the everlasting Son of the Father can shine forth unborrowed light from His body. Only the world’s lone Savior can, in His divine glory, summon His servants Moses and Elijah to His side. Only the Second Person of the Holy Trinity can have it said of Him from above, *“This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.” (Mt. 17:5)* Only God Who is man could give His life as a ransom payment for you and your sins. Only He, according to His human nature, could make full, forever satisfaction for you before the Father.

Which is why Jesus transfigures Himself for you and for all God’s beloved saints. *“His face [shines] like the sun” (Mt. 17:2)* in order for you to believe that He’s your Lord God Who’s come for you in a flesh-and-blood body like yours. He couldn’t save your flesh-and-blood self if He didn’t have one Himself, after all. Christ the Light of the world shines in all His grandeur so that He may go forth to fulfill everything written of Him in the Law and the prophets for you, bearing your sin and death and being your Savior. Jesus’ appearance also changes so that He may strengthen His disciples’ faith and yours. As the Prophet Isaiah declares of Him: *“The Lord will be your everlasting Light, and your God will be your Glory.” (Is. 60:19)*

Jesus’ Transfiguration with Moses and Elijah at His side says something about His relationship with these men. Moses, as you’ll recall, was the Lawgiver in the Book of Exodus through Deuteronomy. Not only did Moses receive the Ten Commandments from God and give them to the people of Israel, he also governed and led them for forty years. Elijah was one of God’s chief Old Testament prophets, we learn in 1st and 2nd Kings. Like Moses, he led Israel in the true faith and worship of God and never failed to speak His Holy Word to them. Both of these men – by their words and deeds – announced the sure coming of Israel’s and our Savior. Now they appear before Jesus to point to Him once again as the One they foretold. Their very presence indicates that *“the Lord [Jesus] He is God!” (1 Kings 18:39)* St. Luke’s account of the Transfiguration adds that Moses and Elijah speak with Jesus *“of His departure, which He [is] about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” (Lk.9:31)* Christ’s cross is always to be front-and-center for us even as He is.

It’s so fitting for the Lord Jesus to gather these two men of great renown to His side! He does so to comfort His disciples and us that He’s indeed come to fulfill the Law for us. This means that He’s come to keep the Law’s perfect precepts or requirements on our behalf. Why so? We guilty sinners are completely unable to keep God’s Law so as to please Him, get into His good graces and gain His love and favor for ourselves. Christ your Savior has pleased God the Father for you. He’s gained His Father’s favor for you so that He’s your God and Father too! His heart is wide open in love and affection for you, thanks be to Jesus!

You’ve no doubt felt completely unworthy of God’s love and affection, His being well-pleased with you like He is with Jesus. You’ll also feel this way in the days and weeks to come. You know the reason. You’ve offended and will offend God and your neighbor. You’ve transgressed His holiness and you’ll cross Him again. You don’t deserve Jesus’ Transfiguration for you any more than you deserve His cross for you. Yet He was transfigured and He died not for the deserving but the undeserving; not for the worthy but for you, the unworthy.

Christ Jesus’ Transfiguration glory is as important-as-ever for you, but it actually pales in comparison to His ultimate glory as God and man upon the cross extended. For the hour of Jesus’ true glory is the hour of His death –

for you! Why is your Savior glorified foremost in His bitter agony and death? Because there – loaded down and cursed unto death and divine judgment with your sin on His back – there Jesus sheds His blood for you, dies for you. In-so-doing, He makes satisfaction for all your sin, death and judgment. All your ills and evils die as He dies. Only He rises to life again; your condemning trespasses are gone for good!

With all your sin and degradation imputed or charged against Christ on His cross, and done away with there by Him, what does God do then but impute, charge His Son's goodness and righteousness unto you! If God were only pleased with Jesus and could never be pleased with you, He'd never say to you, as to Peter, James and John, *"This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."* (Mt. 17:5) But God does say this to you about His Son because He wants to be well-pleased with you too and is well-pleased with you always in Jesus. You're to listen to Jesus since *"Whoever hears [His] Word and believes [the Father Who sent Him] has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."* (John 5:24)

A parting gem in our Gospel is Jesus' comforting touch to His three absolutely stunned, terrified disciples, and His kind words to reassure them that all is well. They've just seen a sight that would awe us all and drive fear into our hearts as well. His touch shows them that He hasn't transfigured Himself to strike them down but to bless them – and us! His words *"Do not fear"* (Mt. 17:7) pacify their hearts that no harm will come to them since He's there with them. Jesus is with you too, to pacify and comfort you also.

Just how is Christ with you; how, exactly, is His glory revealed to you today? The glory of the Transfiguration and the cross are both past. But God gives you sure, certain ways to receive the forgiveness and peace, the salvation and joy of Calvary's cross. For you see, at Calvary, Christ surely won the forgiveness of your sins and God's salvation for you. Yet the Lord doesn't distribute God's pardon and salvation to you from Calvary but from His Word, from His Baptismal font and from His altar. For in the Gospel and the Sacraments, God distributes His saving gifts to you here, now.

So behold God's glory and salvation today in His Church – delivered to you through what is seemingly ordinary and unimpressive. But my, does God ever grant you His all, His Son, through the Gospel preached, heard and believed, the Word washing you pure-as-can-be with water, and Jesus' Holy Supper given and consumed in true faith! It's because of these true, all-glorious gifts of God that your eyes will see the Lord of glory transfigured yet again for you – this time without end at His return for you! It's then that your Savior will gather you and all His faithful to Himself, and you will dwell in the House of the Lord forever! (See Ps. 23:6) Amen. *The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Heavenly Father, Who on the mountain revealed Jesus Christ in His unveiled divine majesty, and by wonderful testimony out of the cloud declared Him to be Your beloved Son: Help us always to believe and confess that Jesus is our one true God – together with You and the Holy Spirit – Who shines the full glory of the Godhead in His body and Who beams forth on us the radiance of God. In commanding us to hear Your Son, You have placed Your divine blessing on all that He has spoken. Grant us grace to hear His wonderful words of salvation with steadfast faith so that we do not dread His final coming or fear His judgment. Gracious Father, to know Christ by faith is to know You and Your love, to possess Your forgiveness and to share with all the saints the hope of everlasting life. We thank You for giving us this knowledge and faith.

Since Your dear Son was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus He would accomplish outside the walls of Jerusalem, give us strength to listen to His voice, follow where He leads and bear our cross, that in the world to come we may see Him as He is.

O Jesus Christ, though glorified on the mountain before lawgiver, prophet and apostolic witnesses, You nevertheless humbled Yourself to death on the cross for our transgressions. Make us willing to suffer for You, to risk all that we have – even our lives – in order that we might better confess Your Name and share Your saving Gospel with others.

Precious Savior, Your appearing in glory in the company of Moses and Elijah and speaking to them of Your approaching death proves that the prophets' words foretelling a Savior from sin are fulfilled in You. The apostles too were eyewitnesses of Your glory and have professed You before the world. Oh teach us to heed the testimony of the

prophets and apostles given in Holy Scripture, so that we never fail to worship You as Savior of sinners and Lord of all.

Merciful Father, graciously comfort and strengthen those who are sick, hospitalized or enduring ongoing treatment, especially _____, our homebound members and all others in our midst with healing needs, that they would know Your peace and receive healing and relief according to Your gracious will. Be with those who are lonely, depressed or mentally ill. Surround them with those who know Your redeeming love and who will mercifully care for them. Grant steadfastness to those near death, comfort those who grieve and grant the certain hope of the resurrection to all Your children.

Those on the mountain were happy to see Your glory for even a passing moment; how blessed all of us will be to spend eternity with You in heaven! Graciously grant, therefore, eternal life to us, forgiving our sins, erasing our doubts, destroying all confidence in our own merit and increasing and sustaining our trust in you through Your Word of Truth. Comfort us with the bright hope of Your joyous coming. Care for our needs and those of our loved ones, and preserve us from all things – physical and spiritual – which may bring us harm. Of Your rich grace and endless mercy, and in Your most sacred Name we ask it. **C: Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: ♪ 294

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Almighty and everlasting God, we heartily thank You for giving us Your Holy Word as a bright light shining in the darkness of this present world, and we humbly implore You to enable us by Your Holy Spirit to diligently listen to and be enlightened and enlivened by the light of Your Word. Grant that the Daystar from on high, Your Son, may arise in our hearts with grace divine and always shine on us as our Light of Light eternal, until the night is over and the great, endless day arrives; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: O God, You revealed Your only-begotten Son to chosen witnesses in brilliantly shining array on the mountain. Mercifully grant that we, whom You are delivering from the fears and troubles of this world, would be permitted to behold our King in His beauty and glory, Who with You, O Father, and You, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 398

† **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY** †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	39	34	14	\$1,680.00
St. James	50	39	6 11	\$2,170.00

Sunday Offerings–Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	7,445.00				
Actual	7,977.49		1,115.00		5
Last Week	1,190.00		490.00		

Sunday Offerings–St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	13,175.00			13,175.00	
Actual	10,510.25	5.00	50.00	10,565.25	5

we live by every Word that comes from the mouth of God. (*See Deut. 8:3; Mt. 4:4*) Since His Holy Word gives us saving faith in Christ; (*see Rom. 10:17*) since it strengthens our faith and serves as a lamp unto our feet, a light unto our path and a great comfort to us, (*see Ps. 119:105; Rom. 15:4*), how good it is to hear, read and study it. So by all means do so. On Sunday mornings we're studying: **St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians**. On Thursday mornings we are studying: **St. Luke's gospel account**.

+++Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's book, "**Truth Notes**", as well as her other books [*Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Hope Alone, and Stand Alone* (\$12.00)]. This devotional is based on her past blog post and point to God's timeless truths in a changing world. Books are \$15 each. See either Sandra Lay or Ruth Meyer to purchase yours!

*****ST. JAMES**...how about **YOU!** We are looking for **Sunday School teachers** to teach either every other Sunday or just once a month. **YOU** can do it...just contact the church office!!!

+++Knitting & Crocheting Group...a group of ladies from Immanuel, Giddings, have been making warm hats and scarves for the needy. They're all created from donated yarn, however, now they are very low on yarn skeins and colors. If anyone would have left over yarn that they may put it in a bag and mark it "Knitting & Crocheting Group" and drop it off at the church office.

*****QUILTING UPDATE**...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**THE FLOWER CHARTS**...are posted in the Narthex at both Holy Trinity and St. James...sign up for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because".

*****BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Spencer Bownds, today; Nathaniel Popelka, today; Eddie Wagner, 14;...St. James-Cody Brockenbush, 12; Ferman Iselt Jr., 12; Jimmy Norment, 13; Daisy Roensch, 13; Courtney Jenke, 15; Charles Kaiser, 17.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Jeff & Joy Ender, 14; Larry & Cindy Terrell, 15; Hernan & Rebecca Vences, 15;...St. James-Rodney & Becky Exner, 14; Sherwood & Janet Frosch, 14.