

# Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sunday, February 19, 2023

*An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in spirit,  
and you are invited to read responses found in **bold**.*

*Welcome to First Lutheran Church!*



## Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude —

Jeremiah Band

Welcome

\*Gathering Hymn — no. 838

“Beautiful Savior”

\*Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are  
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give  
thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you  
created us in your image and placed us in a  
well-watered garden.

**In the desert, you promised pools of water for  
the parched, and you gave us water from the  
rock.**

When we did not know the way, you sent the  
Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the  
cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the  
water of life.

**We praise you for your salvation through  
water, for the water in this font, and for all  
water everywhere.**

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only  
you can give.

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

\*Epiphany Dialogue — *see Yellow Supplement*

\*Canticle of Praise — *see Yellow Supplement - sing ALL*

\*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

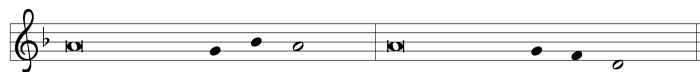
## A Reading from the book of Exodus — Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

## Psalm 2 — *sung responsively by verse*



Why are the nations | in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,  
and the princes | plot together,  
against the Lord and against the | Lord's  
anointed?**

“Let us break their | yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their | bonds from us.”

**God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;  
the Lord holds them | in derision.**

Then in wrath God | speaks to them,  
and in rage fills | them with terror.

**“As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king  
upon Zion, my | holy mountain.”**

Let me announce the decree | of the Lord,  
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I be- |  
gotten you.

**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your  
inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**

You shall crush them with an | iron rod  
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”

**And now, you | kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

Submit to the | Lord with fear,  
and with trembling | bow in worship;

**lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden |  
blaze of wrath.**

**Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!**

## A Reading from Peter's Second Letter — 2 Peter 1:16-21

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 had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation** — *see Yellow Supplement, follow those instructions*

**\*Gospel — Matthew 17:1-9**

The Gospel of Matthew, the 17th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Anthem**

"Sing, Rejoice, Clap Your Hands"

Mark Patterson

Sunday School Music

Sarah Chambers, director; Brenda McHugh, piano

**Sermon**

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Hymn — no. 317**

"Jesus on the Mountain Peak"

**\*The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy  
Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

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

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world especially those working in Ohio, Turkey, and Syria. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor and local leaders, our governor and state legislators, our president and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Music at the Offering*

"This Little Light of Mine"

African American Spiritual

# Sharing the Meal

\***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — *see Yellow Supplement*

\***"Holy, Holy, Holy"** — *see Yellow Supplement*

## \***Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

To our God of true justice, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## \***Invitation to Communion**

Here is the table set for our special meal. The bread, the wine, prepared and presented.  
Ready to be served and shared. We remember Jesus sharing a meal like this with his disciples, his friends.  
He included everyone, those he could trust and those he could not trust.  
Today we are his disciples, his friends. Each one of us is welcome. How amazing it is to be loved and wanted even when we have not been perfect. How wonderful it is to be included as we are.

## Distribution of Communion

### Communion Canticle — no. 1056, from *All Creation Sings*

“God Bless to Us Our Bread”



Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en  
God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are

ham - bre y ham - bre de jus - ti - cia, a los que tien - en  
hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are

pan. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.  
fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

### Song — “Light of the World”

Steve Kidder

### Communion Blessing and Prayer

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

## Departing to Serve God’s World

### Announcements

#### \*Sending Hymn — no. 866

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

Using these words:

1. We are SERVING...
2. We are LOVING...
3. We are SINGING...
4. We are LIVING...

#### \*Benediction

May God now send us back down the mountain of our worship.  
We have been changed.  
We can’t be silent anymore.  
We have seen the Light of the World.  
Go and share the radiance of love!

#### \*Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude —

Jeremiah Band

## Acknowledgements

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“Invitation to Communion” by Anna Gobledeale, <https://worshipwords.co.uk/all-age-easter-communion-liturgy-ana-gobledeale-uk/>

Benediction by Rev. Dr. David Bahr, pastor of Park Hill Congregational United Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado.  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/benediction-for-transfiguration-sunday.html>

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## Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Brett Petersen, Laird Bly

Acolytes: Nihla Hoenke, Harley Samuelson

Greeter: Timmy Culuris, Wes Chambers

Reader: Lathe Bly

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson

Musicians: Ivy McHugh, Rebekah Roemhildt, Ella

Twaddle, Christiaan Hajos, Steve Kidder, Kelley Harrell

Communion Preparers: Stelters

Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier,

Sharon Malm

## Announcements

- Fellowship refreshments will be served by the Roemhildt Family after worship this morning, thank you!
- The church and office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Presidents Day.
- A reminder that the Minnesota River Valley Conference Assembly is today, starting at 2:00pm at Bernadotte Lutheran Church.
- Tonight at 6:30 pm, Pr. Chris will meet with our 1st & 2nd Graders who are preparing to receive their first Holy Communion in the Dining Hall. Upcoming classes are on March 5th and 19th.
- Ash Wednesday is this week on February 22 at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we begin the series *Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith*. All are welcome!
- You are invited to join together in remembrance for a vigil at the one year anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. An offering of Ukrainian music will center time for prayer and reflection. Reception featuring typical Ukrainian treats will follow. 10:00-10:20 am, Friday, February 24, Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College.
- FLC will be collecting LED light bulbs for the month of February for the St. Peter Area Food Shelf! Please drop them off in the office.
- For the month of February FLC will receive double the usual amount from our Kwik Trip Card program. Please consider purchasing your gas in advance. This is an excellent passive source of income to the church that is no additional cost to you or the church to participate in this program.
- Join Emily in the Conference Room for a First Forum on Sunday, February 26 at 9:00 a.m. before worship. She will be presenting on *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney. Emily studied this material while on sabbatical, and she would love the opportunity to share with all who are interested in learning more about this potential resource.
- On February 26, you are invited to join Pr. Chris in the Dining Hall after worship as we continue our Bible study on *Making Sense of Martin Luther*. Please join us!
- Take note of the First Forum following worship on March 5. You will have an opportunity to learn about the “Aging in Place” Program by Habitat for Humanity.
- We will be having a New Member Sunday on March 5th! Please join us to welcome our new siblings in Christ! If you are interested in joining FLC, please contact Pastor Chris.
- Look for an email coming out this week asking for your help preparing Holy Communion. We really need your help if we are going to continue offering Holy Communion each Sunday.

## Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Rita Ogren and Margie Nelson.
- We pray for healing for all who are sick, for the families of natural and manmade disasters, and for peace throughout our country and around the world.