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# Saint James Lutheran Church



A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

## TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD FEBRUARY 14, 2021



The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Shine, Jesus Shine*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**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 your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: *2 Kings 2:1-12*

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

A reading from 2nd Kings, the second chapter.

**N**ow when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "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. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." <sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, 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. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." <sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "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. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. <sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: *Psalms 50:1-6*

A reading from Psalm fifty.

- <sup>1</sup> The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
<sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.  
<sup>3</sup> Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire,  
and a mighty tempest all around him.  
<sup>4</sup> He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:  
<sup>5</sup> "Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"  
<sup>6</sup> The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

A reading from 2nd Corinthians, the fourth chapter.

**E**ven if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In 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. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL Mark 9:2-13

*Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the ninth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**S**ix days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup>So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. <sup>11</sup>Then they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" <sup>12</sup>He said to them, "Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? <sup>13</sup>But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*Rev. Dr. Tom Ridenhour*

## HYMN

*Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

*Kim Miller, vocalist*

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true and only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return,  
till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

## NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those responsible for health, safety, and protection: for doctors and nurses, emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to your mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer this day, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For companions on life's journey in this worshipping community, for all who will participate in the synod-wide Lenten Bible study, for our sisters and brothers at St. John's Lutheran Church in Concord, and for guidance during struggles we face together, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son,  
and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*How Firm a Foundation*

*arr. Dale Wood*

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

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# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at keith@sjnc.net

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## PRAYER LIST

**Sam Hurley**  
All health care professionals and first responders including:  
**Deb Bradshaw**  
**Lauri Fowler**  
**DeeDee Gilbert**  
**Annette Propst**  
**Meagan Lambert**  
**Alison Monk**  
**Debbie Davis**  
**Jason and Stephanie Matthews**  
**Dr Bradley Propst, son of**  
*Kenny and Annette Propst*  
**Sam Hurley, son of Elizabeth Hurley**  
**Julie Greathouse, friend of Lois Marlow**  
**Betsy Waselovich, sister of Golda Jay**  
**Lauren, daughter of Angie Buchanan**  
**Dr. Stephanie Garrison,** daughter-in-law of Margaret Garrison  
**Dr. Kevin Burns,** son-in-law of Margaret Garrison.

*If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list, please contact Keith. 704-786-0166 and leave a message or email at keith@sjnc.net*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**15-Feb.** Lori Pittard  
**16-Feb.** Stephanie Matthews  
**16-Feb.** Clary Phillips  
**17-Feb.** Jason Matthews  
**17-Feb.** Elias Rutemiller  
**18-Feb.** Mark Hartman  
**18-Feb.** Jodi Ramirez

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:** Jodi Ramirez  
**Vocalist:**

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

**Contributions and Receipts for February 7, 2021**  
**\$22,933.85**  
*(\$7,692.00 needed for weekly)*

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH BISHOP SMITH

Back by popular demand! Bishop Tim Smith will lead a synod-wide Bible Study on the book of Isaiah on **Thursdays from February 11 to March 25** at 7:00 p.m. The class will be virtual via Zoom. **Register here** to receive an email with the Zoom link. If you miss a session, recordings will be available for watching at your convenience. All are welcome; spread the word!  
[Register Now](#)

## Worship and Bible Study Opportunities during Lent

**Ash Wednesday:** February 17— Drive-in service @ 6:30 in the Garden lot; a worship service will also be available on YouTube and Facebook.

**Wednesday's in Lent:** St James has joined with other downtown churches to prepare an ecumenical Lenten devotional that will be posted on YouTube and Facebook each week starting February 24.

**Bible Study:** Beginning February 11, Bishop Tim Smith of the NC Synod is offering a Thursday evening Zoom Lenten Bible study on the Book of Isaiah. It begins at 7:00 pm. Please use the following link to register: [Register Now](#)

**Daily Devotional:** Once again this year Luther Seminary is providing a daily Lenten devotional. Copies are available in the church office or you may download the devotional using the following link: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenen-devotional/>

## DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James.....Ministers  
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

## SAINT JAMES STAFF

The Rev. Tony Bradshaw.....Senior Pastor  
**tony@sjnc.net**  
Jill Irvin.....Finance Administrator  
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## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

**Joseph Beasley..... President**  
**Golda Jay..... Vice President**  
**Ann Blackwelder ..... Secretary**  
**Beth Huss ..... Treasurer**

Samantha Hillegass  
Elizabeth Hurley  
Hunter Huss  
Nick Lovelace  
Chris Miller  
Jon Miller  
Mac Mullins  
Mark Murphy  
Al Pieschel  
Kenny Propst



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## OFFICE HOURS

**M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00**  
*Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00*

**Join Saint James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**—send Jeremy Jay any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [jeremy@pbnjay.com](mailto:jeremy@pbnjay.com)

**St. James YouTube Channel**  
Search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.