

Triune Lutheran Church



Transfiguration of Our Lord



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Lord, Jesus
Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!



- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen!

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in
confession, trusting the love of Christ.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing/sitting. Silence
is kept for reflection.*

God who searches us and knows us,
**you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen!**

Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but, instead, the Holy Spirit
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
Receive this promise of baptism:
You are God's child; † your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad,
for yours is the glory of life everlasting!
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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!**

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:12-18

¹²The 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.” ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of

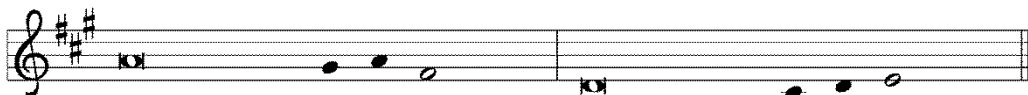
God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The 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. ¹⁷Now 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. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 2



¹Why are the nations | in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

²**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?**

³“Let us break their | yoke,” they say;

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

⁴**God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;
the LORD holds them | in derision.**

⁵Then in wrath God | speaks to them,
and in rage fills | them with terror.

⁶**“As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king
upon Zion, my | holy mountain.”**

⁷Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I be-
| gotten you.

⁸**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations
for | your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**

⁹You shall crush them with an | iron rod
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”

¹⁰**And now, you | kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

¹¹Submit to the | LORD with fear,
and with trembling | bow in worship;

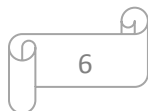
¹²**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a
sudden | blaze of wrath.**

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

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For 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.” ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.



¹⁹So 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. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord!

Matthew 17:1-9

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John 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 dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then 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.” ⁵While 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!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As 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.”

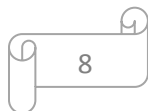
This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“How Good, Lord, to be Here!”

ELW 315



***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 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**

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, your loving power is at work among all of us. Rouse and embolden your whole church, that we too might be transfigured, set alight in the world for the sake of the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awesome God, you display your majesty in the mountains and your mystery in the clouds. Grant that we discover your magnificence in all of your created world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruler of nations, your reign extends across all human borders. Guide world leaders in justice and righteousness, that they may work for equity for all people and protect the world that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are a refuge for all who are neglected and abused. Bring freedom to those who are oppressed and give comfort to those experiencing pain of any kind, including Bev & Bill Deitrick, Tim Mize, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Jenny Adams, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, John & Jean Kurtz, Matthew Loede, Marlin Loede, Mary Phillips, Courtney Spencer, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of Moses and Elijah, you made your dwelling place at the top of a mountain with Jesus and his disciples. Dwell, also, in this family of Triune, that all who are part of this community of faith might be transformed by your dazzling brilliance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, you offer eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the witness of those who lived and died in the faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN**

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” VERSE 1 ELW 674

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of wonder, you shaped us in our mother’s womb,
and from the earth you bring forth this bread and wine.
We place them on your table,
together with our lives and all that you have made.
We long for your peace;
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,
our banquet of everlasting life. **Amen!**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "GREAT THANKSGIVING". It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: "The Lord be with you." and "And al - so with you." The second staff also has two measures: "Lift up your hearts." and "We lift them to the Lord." The third staff has two measures: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff has two measures: "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with quarter and eighth notes.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved
Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your
glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of five staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line is "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,". The second line is "heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -". The third line is "san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -". The fourth line is "est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -". The fifth line is "san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.".

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God:
you are the Life and Light of all.
By your powerful word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to
the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing, his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

Bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

Amen!

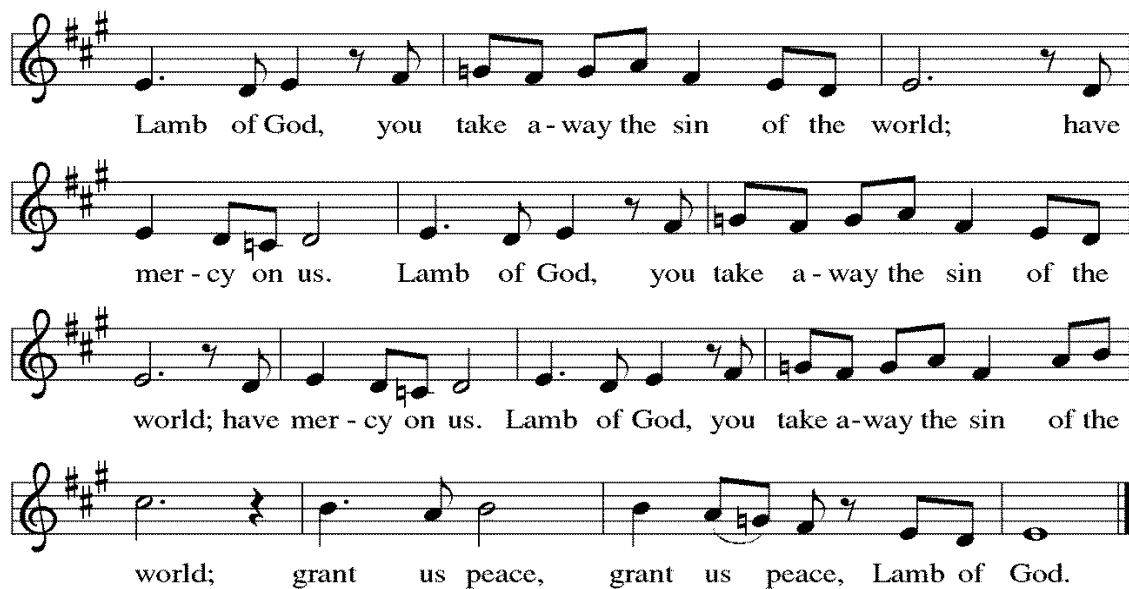
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy for us all!
Thanks be to God!**

*COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God,
you have kept your promise to us in this meal,
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.
Now send your servants forth in peace,
that we may testify to your goodness
and share the hope that is ours
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen!

***BLESSING**

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
and the source of our life together,
keep you united in mind and purpose.

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever!

Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

ELW 671

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Let your light shine!

Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: ***All People***
Pastor: ***Brad Ross***
Organist: ***Edith Schatt***
Worship Leader: ***Heidi Bailey***
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

Transfiguration(s)

I've always had a little trouble connecting with the transfiguration story. It's really neat that Moses and Elijah appear and talk with Jesus. I, as a scholar, have been interested in the parallels among the lives of Moses, Elijah, Jesus and Peter. But that interest, if I'm honest, has been mostly intellectual and hasn't really changed how I feel about Jesus. What difference does it make if he got shiny for a little bit? In rereading this passage to prepare for writing this article, it struck me that Jesus' transfiguration makes all the difference to us.

The transfiguration is a strange event in the already quite unique life of Jesus. The Messiah took a break from teaching and healing to climb a mountain with his inner circle of disciples. Once there, he became radiant and had a conversation with the prophets of old. But then, the disciples heard the voice of God from heaven proclaim: "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5).

Jesus could have snuck off by himself, as he frequently did, for this mystical experience. Instead, he chose to bring his disciples. Then, as if seeing a radiant Jesus speaking with Moses and Elijah weren't enough, God spoke to the disciples directly, affirming Jesus' beloved sonship, and ordering the disciples to listen to him. God did not, that we know of, speak to Jesus here. Jesus and God the Father arranged this whole event on the mountaintop so Peter, James and John could witness it. Why? The language used gives us a big hint.

The Greek word that we translate as transfigured is familiar: μεταμορφώθη (from which we get "metamorph"). It carries a valence of being utterly transformed into something new. Think of a caterpillar metamorphizing into a butterfly. This word, with different conjugations, is used four times in the New Testament. Twice it is used (in Matthew and Mark) to describe Jesus at the transfiguration. The other two times, it's applied to other humans. In Romans 12:2, Paul uses the word "metamorph" to describe a process that happens as our minds are made new and we no longer conform to the patterns of this world. To think differently is to undergo the sort of radical transformation that Jesus experienced.

Even more interesting to me is 2 Corinthians 3:18, which prophesies that we will be changed by the Spirit's power into the same radiant image as we behold God's glory. Transfiguration into a glorious, radiant body is not just for Jesus, but for us too—eventually.

But 2 Corinthians 3 is about Moses, not Jesus. Hundreds of years earlier, Moses had asked to see God's glory, and God granted him at least a partial fulfillment of that request. Indeed, all the people gathered at Sinai saw the glory of the Lord (Exodus 24:17). But for Moses, to whom God's presence was so powerfully intimate, transformation was unavoidable. When Moses returned to the people after conversing with God, his face was radiant, like Jesus' would be on the mount of transfiguration (Exodus 34:29-35). And like Jesus on the mountain, the transfiguration was only temporary.

If the mountaintop experience was only temporary, what's the point of Jesus' transfiguration? I argue that Jesus and God the Father wanted the disciples to get a foretaste of what the kingdom of heaven and New Jerusalem would be like. Jesus is the pioneer of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10; I've always appreciated the New Revised Standard Version's and New International Version's translation of ἀρχηγὸν as "pioneer"). Literally, he is the one who goes first to show the way. And the end realization of the path that we follow Jesus on is to be in the company of God and all the saints who have gone on before us. We will all be transfigured into our heavenly, resurrected bodies, just as Jesus now is permanently transfigured.

And what God said of Jesus, God longs to say of all of us: "Behold, this is my beloved son, my beloved daughter." Jesus' transfiguration was meant to show the disciples, and us who come after, part of what awaits us when, at last, we enjoy God's holy presence.



Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.

We begin our journey of Lent with Ash Wednesday this week, on February 26 at 5pm. We will receive an imposition of ashes before receiving the, still, reassuring forgiveness, grace and mercy that will sustain us throughout Lent and for all our life in holy Communion. Join us as we take on this spiritual journey together!

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

Congregational
MEETING
 *please join us!*

Next Sunday is our next congregational meeting. Like last time, we will gather at 5pm, starting with a pot-luck meal before continuing with the meeting. As always, we will provide the dinnerware, but just let us know if you plan on attending, and, if so, if you plan on bringing something to share (don't forget to bring your own beverage as well). This is a great way to re-connect with each other and to go over anything needed to discuss for our church family!