

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 11th, 2024 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist



() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Litany (written by Fran Pratt)

P: Jesus, we have seen your majesty and we are captivated by the light of your face, shining like the sun.

C: You are more important than all who came before or after you ... more than Moses, or Elijah; more than any prophet, priest, or king; more than any pastor, politician, or world leader.

P: In you every message is confirmed; every message of hope, every message of peace, every message of reconciliation.

C: The identity and character of God is made known in the Son: reckless forgiveness and radical love!

P: We will look to you and we will live by your light

C: Until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in our hearts. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #853 "When Morning Gilds The Skies"

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

C: And also with you.

P: 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.**

The 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.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah 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. ³The 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." ⁴Elijah 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. ⁵The 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."

⁶Then 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. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then 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.

⁹When 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." ¹⁰He 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." ¹¹As they continued walking and talk-

ing, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha 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.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50 (selective verses read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵"Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made
a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

The 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.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled 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 we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For 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.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

*The 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.

*The Holy Gospel ~ Mark 9: 2-9

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 9th chapter of St. Mark.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

²Six 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, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then 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." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Sermon

*Hymn #315 "How Good Lord to Be Here"

*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

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. 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.

***Prayer of the Church**

After each prayer petition, please respond:

P: God of grace ... **C:** Receive our prayer.

Anthem

“Christ Be Our Light”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements



The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be received by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer in the juice and will hand it to each communicant so that they may receive it between thumb and forefinger and place it in their own mouth. Children and youth not yet instructed in the meaning of the sacrament are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and a cracker. ✚

***Communion Hymn #838**

“Beautiful Savior”

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Hymn #866

“We Are Marching in the Light”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace. Let Christ’s light shine!

Thanks be to God!

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*thank
you*

... Diane Ernst for serving as our lector, usher, & counter

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech

The season of Lent begins this
Wednesday, February 14th, with
worship at 6:15pm.

(Communion & imposition of ashes)



The altar flower arrangements have been sponsored by Diane Ernst in memory of Lillian Weiss.

To be remembered in prayer ... Bill Bugger, Leona Callahan, Levi Cressman, Sharon Edwards, Hope Geary, Harvey and Janet Heckman, Rod and Susan Heckman, Helen Kerositz, Kathleen Tuomela May, Zachary, and the people of Israel and Ukraine.



Interested in volunteering to help with our **annual candy making** project? Please see or speak with Nancy Filler (610-282-1386) for more details about meeting times.

Altar flower sponsors are needed for the 2024 church year. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex hallway bulletin board and clearly mark your name and dedication. Thank you!

+ Mid-Week Lenten Services +

Wed., February 21st ~ First UCC

(510 Northampton St., Hellertown)

Wed., February 28th ~ New Jerusalem Lutheran

(3233 Apples Church Rd., Bethlehem)

Wed., March 6th ~ Christ Lutheran

(69 Main St., Hellertown)

Wed., March 13th ~ Lower Saucon UCC

(1375 3rd Ave., Hellertown)

Wed., March 20th ~ Friedens Lutheran

Soup suppers begin at **6pm** and the **worship services** at **7pm**. Come for one, several, or all!