



Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 14, 2021

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

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Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

Quintet

Jesus, take us to the mountain, where, with Peter, James, and John,
we are dazzled by Your glory, light as blinding as the sun.
There prepare us for the night by the vision of that sight.

What do you want us to see there, that Your close companions saw?
Your divinity revealed there fill us with the selfsame awe.
Clothed in flesh like ours You go matched to meet our deadliest Foe.

What do You want us to hear there, that Your dear disciples heard?
Once again the Voice from heaven says of the Incarnate Word:
“Listen, listen, ev’ry one, This is My Beloved Son!”

Take us to that other mountain where we see You glorified,
where You shouted “It is finished!” where for all the world You died.
Hear the stunned centurion: “Truly this was God’s own Son!”

We who have beheld Your glory, risen and ascended Lord,
cannot help but tell the story, all that we have seen and heard;
say with Peter, James, and John: “You are God’s beloved Son!”

Text: Jaroslav Vajda

Music: Carl Schalk

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: **you search us and know us.**

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.**

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;**

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ~ “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system contains three verses. The second system contains two lines of lyrics. The third system contains two lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

A: Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 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. 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."

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. 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."

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

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." 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." 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. 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.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50

Peter R. Hallock

Psalm 50: 1-6

ANTIPHON

Psalm 50: 2
Organ: *Everyone:*

Out of Zi - on, per-fect in its beau-ty,
God re-veals him - self in glo - ry.

Choir: The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory.

ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Choir: Our God will come and will not keep silence; before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm. He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of his people.

ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Choir: "Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice." Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge.

ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Hymn of the Day ~ "Oh, Wondrous Image"



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in -
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ
4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by
5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and



glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the
car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the
deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
Ho - ly One says, "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

Apostles' Creed

P: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

**C: 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

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

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

Have mercy, O God.

A: For all who suffer this day especially, Joe, Barry, Jean, Alethia, Martyne, Callen, Kate, Ed, Maria, Cheryl, Susan, John, Jenny, Scott, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna, 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.

A: For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

Have mercy, O God.

A: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "And As They Came Down from the Mountain"

Quintet

Rob Laird, Tenor Solo

And as they came down from the mountain,
He charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen,
til the Son of man were risen from the dead.

Resurrection is the merging of my night into His dawn,
resurrection is dawn upon the mountain top,
looking into the promised Land of God, Alleluia.

Text: Mark 9:9

Music: Alan Hovhaness (*from Transfiguration Cantata*)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).

2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.

3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

Voluntary~ “Come, Beloved of the Maker”

Franklin Ashdown

Offertory Hymn~ “Come Beloved of the Maker”



1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -
3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low
5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose



hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's
to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of
glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and



splen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.
an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.
splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

Offertory Prayer

P: O God,
receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

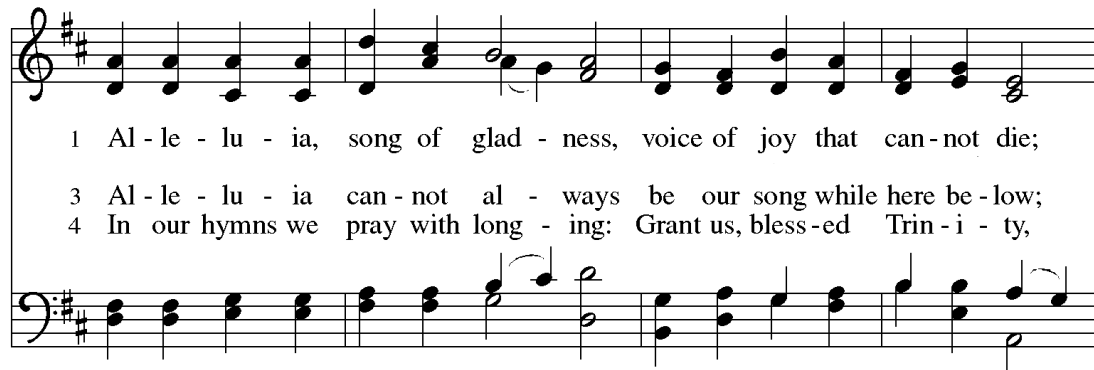
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

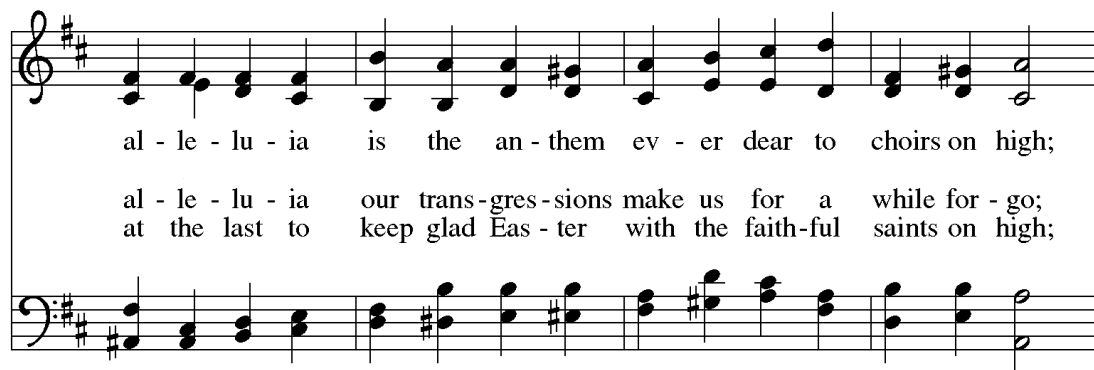
P: God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn~ “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ “Finale on Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

Robert Hobby

Additional music links:

“Meditation on Beautiful Savior”

<https://youtu.be/c9r8zQEu1kM>

“Shine, Jesus Shine”

<https://youtu.be/D4hXJ9ax2FY>

“Burial of the Alleluia”

https://youtu.be/ZQC41MM8u_Y

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Quintet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen, Rob Laird

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

