

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 13 & 14, 2021
Transfiguration of Our Lord

Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson

OUR VISION

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Praise His Greatness” Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

Songs of thankfulness and praise, / Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise; / manifested by the star / to the sages from afar, / branch of royal David's stem / in thy birth at Bethlehem: / anthems be to thee addressed, / God in flesh made manifest.

Manifest in making whole / weakened body, fainting soul; / manifest in valiant fight, / quelling all the devil's might; / manifest in gracious will, / ever bringing good from ill: / anthems be to thee addressed, / God in flesh made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, / present in thy holy word; / grace to imitate thee now / and be pure, as pure art thou; / that we might become like thee / at thy great epiphany, / and may praise thee, ever blest, / God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885. Public Domain.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess before God and one another, trusting in God’s endless mercy and love. 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 those we share with all. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Together” Fred Bornhoeft

THE FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12 Buzz Schmidtke

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.

P: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Buzz Schmidtke

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 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. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. 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.

P: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

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 any more, 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.

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

HYMN: "How Good, Lord, to Be Here!"

How good, Lord, to be here! / Your glory fills the night; / your face and garments, like the sun, / shine with unborrowed light.

How good, Lord, to be here! / your beauty to behold / where Moses and Elijah stand, / your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past / and hope of things to be, / we hail your body glorified / and our redemption see.

Before we taste of death, / we see your kingdom come; / we long to hold the vision bright / and make this hill our home.

How good, Lord, to be here! / Yet we may not remain; / but since you bid us leave the mount, / come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt. Public Domain.

SERMON: "Mountaintop Momentum!" *Pastor Gary Benson*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "How Great Thou Art"

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder / consider all the works thy hand hath made, / I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, / thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, / how great thou art! How great thou art! / Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, / how great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, / I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; / when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur / and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **Refrain**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, / and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! / Then I shall bow in humble adoration / and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" **Refrain**

Text: Carl Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989; (c) 1953 S. K. Hine, admin. Manna Music Inc. (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Used by permission CCLI License No. 1347924.

APOSTLES' CREED

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 into hell. 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

THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray:

C: 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.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

Sent forth by God's blessing, / our true faith confessing, / the people of God from his dwelling take leave. / The supper is ended. / Oh, now be extended / the fruits of this service in all who believe. / The seed of Christ's teaching, / receptive souls reaching, / shall blossom in action for God and for all. / Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us / to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving / to God ever-living, / the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face. / Our faith ever sharing, / in love ever caring, / embracing God's children, the whole human race. / With your feast you feed us, / with your light now lead us; / unite us as one in this life that we share. / Then may all the living / with praise and thanksgiving / give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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RUNNING THE RACE

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philipians 3:13-14