



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org

Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

The “light of Christ” is not just a metaphor. Christ is our light as He shines with the brightness of the one true light. Where the world lives in the darkness of doubt, Christ brings us confidence to approach the throne of grace. Where the world lives in the faded glory of our dreams and ambitions, Christ’s light of forgiveness and hope never fades. Where the world *imagines* a future, Christ’s light shines on the new and everlasting tomorrow. As Christ shone with His light, so do we shine with the reflected light of our Savior, so that those living in darkness and in the shadow of death might be shown the way.

Prelude

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

H. Metzger

Opening Hymn

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

#873

- | | |
|---|---|
| 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. | Till Thy mercy’s beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart. |
| 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day’s return | 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. |

Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 30:15, 18, 29

P For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,

C “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

P Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.

C For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.

P You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept,

C and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

Confession and Absolution

P We pause to reflect and remember our sins before almighty God...

P O God, our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

C Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

- P** We confess that we have not always brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.
- C** **Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**
- P** We repent of all that is sinful in our lives, both that which we know and those things unknown to us that are against Your righteous laws.
- C** **Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**
- P** Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 99:1–5; antiphon: v. 9

- P** Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!
- C** **The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**
- P** The LORD is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples.
- C** **Let them praise Your great and awesome name! Holy is He!**
- P** The King in His might loves justice. You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- C** **Exalt the LORD our God; worship at His footstool! Holy is He!**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!**

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** O Lord our God...
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament:

✠ The Shining Face of Moses ✠

Exodus 34:29–35

²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. ³²Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. ³³And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

³⁴Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle:

✠ The Light of the Gospel ✠ *2 Corinthians 3:12–13; 4:1–6*

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only 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 what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise Duet

“Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory”

T. Troeger / A. Husberg

Holy Gospel:

✠ The Transfiguration ✠

Mark 9:2–9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,

begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

“Tis Good, Lord, to be Here”

#414

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light. | We hail Thy body glorified
And our redemption see. |
| 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
Thy beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Thy messengers of old. | 4 Before we taste of death,
We see Thy kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright
And make this hill our home. |
| 3 Fulfiller of the past
And hope of things to be, | 5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since Thou bidst us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain. |

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Offerings may also be dropped off at the office or mailed, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please talk with Sandy in the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion is indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of it. We also acknowledge St. Paul's instruction to the Church at Corinth that it is harmful for anyone to receive the Sacrament without recognizing the real presence of His Body and Blood. Because of this, in Christian love we ask anyone who does not understand these truths to please refrain from receiving the Sacrament until you've spoken with the pastor. (*Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30*)

Communion at the Altar Rail

After nearly 4 years of receiving the Sacrament only by "Continuous Communion," beginning today we will again come to the Altar rail for the Lord's Supper for most of our services. There will be ushers to help direct you to the front. We'll begin with the wings after the musicians, singers, communion assistants, pastor, and those not able to come to the front have communed.

It is always your choice whether or not to kneel, so please don't feel you have to, especially if it may cause you difficulty.

✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

Preface

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

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary...

The Lord's Prayer

- P** Hear us now as we pray together in His name,
C **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

#631 sts. 1-4

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the_ eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean. | 3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee. |
| 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n. | 4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Another arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone. |

Text: Public domain

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

#389 sts. 1, 3-4 & 7

1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

3 Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

△7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

*Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by
permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400*

“Beautiful Savior”

#537

1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love Thee,
Truly I’d serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Public domain

Communion Blessing

P The true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

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.

Closing Hymn

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

#417

1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem
Ever raised by choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding
Thus they sing eternally.

3 Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluia, our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.

2 Alleluia, thou resoundest,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother,
All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon’s sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.

4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter
With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.

Text: Public domain

Postlude

“Postlude in D Major”

J. Dandrieu



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Organist: Ruth Sievers

Vocalists: Sandy Barry & Mandy Signorelli

Lector: Sunday: David Witkosky

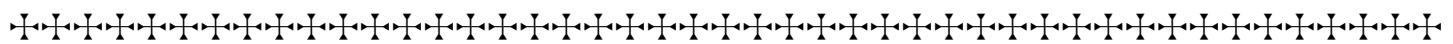
Altar Care: Sunday: Cathy Kumke; Wednesday: Sandy Barry

Elders: Dave Kandel, Rich Przybycien, Keith Vanselow

Ushers: Ed Raff, Sharon Rochlitz, Cathy Kumke

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.



Announcements & Notes:

St. Paul continues our partnership with Southside Pregnancy Center to help support their ministry to families in need by collecting "All Things Baby" through next Sunday, February 18. There are fliers on the tables in the narthex listing items they need, as well a display and information for you to check out – the list is labeled "All Things Baby." Donations for Southside can be brought to the church any time and placed there on the tables.

The Soup & Bread event for Beds Plus was last Sunday, and it was a great time! They almost hit their goal of \$150,000, but not quite, so if you'd like to help them make it, look for the soup cups on the counter by the church office, where you'll find donation envelopes for Beds Plus.

Operation Barnabas meets this Tuesday morning at 10:30am to put together care packages for the troops, and your help is always appreciated!

Ash Wednesday is February 14. Please join us for worship at either 11am or 7pm.

A FREE Continental Breakfast will be served by the Ladies Guild on Ash Wednesday at 10am in the Timothy Room before the morning service. Everyone is invited for food, fellowship, and inspirational singing! If you are able to help with a food donation for the breakfast, please sign the "Food Donation" sheet that's on the counter outside the church office.

Our midweek Lenten Suppers begin the following Wednesday, February 21, and will be served from 5:30 – 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall before each Lenten service through March 20. A hymn sing will follow in the church at 6:40pm before the 7pm Lenten service. Bring a friend!

Please note that our Wednesday Evening Services will start at 7pm on Ash Wednesday and throughout the season of Lent.

The Lenten Supper on February 21 needs a host! No one is currently signed up to serve that day, so if you and some friends would like to organize it, there will undoubtedly be others who will help. Call Sandy for more info.

Lenten Devotion Booklets – either regular or large print – are ready for you to pick up in the narthex and wings of the church. Please take one for your family and one for a friend.

The Southwest Lutheran Chorus will begin its 2024 season at 7pm NEXT Monday, February 19, with rehearsals held here at St. Paul. Singers of all voice parts are welcome and needed to fill the Chorus.

Our St. Paul choir rehearsals have also begun at 7:00 Wednesdays. For more information about either of these, see Ruth Sievers.

Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Studies continue in the Timothy Room after our worship service.

Curtis has to reschedule Thursday Evening Bible Study Classes, but he needs your input. Would you prefer meeting on Saturday mornings, either at St. Paul or at a restaurant, OR would you prefer Monday evenings at 6:30 or 7pm. Please let Curtis know your preference.

The LWML Lenten Inspiration will be Saturday, March 2 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1045 Belvidere road in Belvidere, IL. Registration and breakfast begin at 8am and the Inspiration is held from 9am-2pm. Rev. Kris Whitby is the keynote speaker. The LWML is collecting food, sheets, and blankets for Empower Boone!

It's time to renew OR START your subscription to The Lutheran Witness! This is a publication of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod written for the lay person with articles about living the Christian life, worldwide missions, ministries of various congregations and encouragement for your personal walk of faith. If you would like to become a subscriber or renew your subscription, please let Sandy know, and make your checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church in the amount of \$20.65 before February 28, 2024.

Remembering our homebound friends is a caring ministry of St. Paul meant to help us stay in touch with our members who aren't able to be with us for worship. Please remember them in your prayers. You may also like to send a note or a card. This week our homebound friend is **Carolyn Wheeler, 7832 S. Joliet Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60477.**

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family

Janice Janiszewski
Rev. Daniel Gensch
Dorothy Pavella
Vic & Marty Both
George Oberg
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Rev. Paul and Judy Anderson
Bill Volk
Arthur Gerth
Ingrid Lesko
Jan Briede
Roy Hodgeman
Katherine Hice
Kurt Seehofer
Flora Jones
Graham Jackson
Kevin Hickey
Gloria Meyer
Elaine Lebron
Melva Smith
Delores Stegemann
Carol Small
Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski
Beverly Sellers
Betty Beegle
Warren Miller
Delphine Cherry
Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank
Betty Kruckow
Herta Iversen
Loretta Frank
George Dodaro, Sr.

Barbara Prendergast
Nancy Bundley
Rosa Richardson
Tammy & Carl Hoppe
Sarah Weber

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Roberta & Carlos Owens
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta
Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow
Janet Trierweiler
Vicki Warren
Rhonda Scott
Michelle Mitchell
Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi
Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher
The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross
Louise Hrynkow
Gloria Folsom
Mary Beth Pasqua
Shirley Fairchild
Simeon Hoppe
Ron Lunt
Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath
Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres

Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo
Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.
Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter
Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer
Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk
Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson
Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke
Vern Howe
Shawn Harland
Ann Herold
Barb Potter
Wayne Volk
Lance Barrientos
Linda Shuman
Doris Potts
Doreen Holford
Judy Collins
Luke Pajowski
Phyllis Hicks
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Cathy Becker
Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel
Carol Loecherbach
Charley Heitz
Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Frank Coglinase
Gene Wawrzynkowski
Kimberly Rooney
Helena Hoffman

Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Audrey Metes
Richard DeSaga
Ken Wentz
Margaret Lundgreen
Julie King
Sharon Bryant
Anika Seger
Monica Kato
Herb Kleeman
Debra Kleeman
Sarah Skelton
Barbara Apt
Bob & Gloria Freeman
Carrie Aspan
Lisa Anglin
Devon Apt
Tristan Ferry
LaNell Mauler Koenig
Todd, Sofia & Grace Lynam
Hillary Pittelko
Sue Berg
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips
Donna Santi
Evelyn & Ron Konieczki
Katherine Zeleny
Elmo Schultz
Jose Urena
Mike Feyerer
Edward Cyga
Jessica Nigrelli
Elaine & Paul Horan
Ted Gross
Avery Kenny

For those who grieve:

- *Mike and Debbie Will at the death of their good friend Karl Krout, called to his eternal rest with Jesus on Feb. 7.*

For those celebrating special times of joy:

- *John Stiso celebrated a birthday on Feb. 8th.*
- *Jerry Aspan celebrates a birthday today!*
- *John & Jo Anne Stiso celebrate their 45th Wedding Anniversary today!*

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over.