

Transfiguration of Our Lord

# February 19, 2023

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**VISITORS WELCOME!** If this is your first time worshipping with us, please sign our guest registry just outside the sanctuary doors. We hope you are blessed through worship today. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church at (517) 351-8541.

**Children** are always welcome in worship! We consider the sounds of children a joyful noise. The choir room (off the sanctuary) can also be used as a ***cry room*** for younger children and includes a sound system so parents may continue to participate in the service. Clipboards with children’s bulletins, activities and crayons are available for use during the service.

**Sunday School/Education** is available September-May.

**This Bulletin** is for your use during the service and to take with you for the upcoming week. If you choose not to take it home, please place in the recycle receptacle in the back.

**Newsletters and Calendars of Upcoming Events** are available in the

lobby/narthex. We welcome anyone who has an interest in our small groups or activities! You can also look us up on the web at www.stpaul-el.org.

**Contacting Us:** Our office manager is Maria Oliver. The office e-mail address is officemanager@stpaul-el.org. Our Director of Music is Elene Kobulashvili. You may leave a message at (517) 351-8541.

**Holy Communion** is available at most services. All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the bread and the wine are invited to celebrate Communion with us. Those who wish can come forward for a blessing.

**You are invited** to share in fellowship after worship. Kay (with the assistance of Bob) usually makes the most delicious snacks to our delight. We would love this opportunity to introduce you to the St. Paul community.

**P: Presiding Minister A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation**

**PRELUDE**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Today’s festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God’s beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today’s liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

**GATHERING**

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

(*Please rise as you are able)*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who makes all things new,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,**

**and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,**

**forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another**

**for the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

P: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass

and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

As a called and ordained minister in the Church of Christ and by his authority I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *Love Devine, All Loves Excelling* *ELW 631***

*Love divine, all loves excelling,*

 *Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!*

 *Fix in us thy humble dwelling,*

 *all thy faithful mercies crown.*

 *Jesus, thou art all compassion,*

 *pure, unbounded love thou art;*

 *visit us with thy salvation,*

 *enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit*

 *into ev'ry troubled breast;*

 *let us all in thee inherit;*

 *let us find thy promised rest.*

 *Take away the love of sinning;*

 *Alpha and Omega be;*

 *end of faith, as its beginning,*

 *set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver;*

 *let us all thy life receive;*

 *suddenly return, and never,*

 *nevermore thy temples leave.*

 *Thee we would be always blessing,*

 *serve thee as thy hosts above,*

 *pray, and praise thee without ceasing,*

 *glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation,*

 *pure and spotless let us be;*

 *let us see thy great salvation*

 *perfectly restored in thee!*

 *Changed from glory into glory,*

 *till in heav'n we take our place,*

 *till we cast our crowns before thee,*

 *lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

**GREETING**

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.**

**KYRIE ELW Setting 2, Page 120**

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

***Amen.***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

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.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*(Children are invited to Sunday School)*

***Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil* *ELW 512***

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,*

*Open to the seed of your word.*

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,*

*Where love can grow and peace is understood.*

**THE WORD**

P: God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

###  **FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

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.

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

**Psalm 2**

*You are my son; this day have I begotten you.*(Ps. 2:7)

 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 bonds from us.”
 4**God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;**
  **the Lord holds themin derision. R**
 5Then in wrath God speaks to them,
  and in rage fillsthem with terror.
 6**“As for me, I have anointed 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 begotten you.
 8**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance**
  **and the ends of the earth for your possession. R**
 9You shall crush them with aniron 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 refuge in God! R**

### **SECOND READING:  2 Peter 1:16-21**

At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

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.

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

## (Please rise as you are able.)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW Setting 2, Page 124**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*.

### **GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT:  Matthew 17:1-9**

The Gospel according to Matthew the 17th chapter

**C: Glory to You O Lord**

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: The Praise to you, O Christ.**

## (Please be seated.)

**SERMON Pastor Carl Ballard**

## (Please rise as you are able.)

### **HYMN OF THE DAY *How Good,******Lord, to Be Here***

***ELW 315***

*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.*

**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.**

## (Please be seated.)

**THE PRAYERS**

A:Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor and local leaders, our governor and state legislators, our president and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus’ voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Send angels of protection to provide care and compassion to those who serve in our armed forces as they face the trauma of war. We pray especially for Beth & Ryan, Coen, Jonathan, Jacob, Noah, Irene, and Alex. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow. Deepen our care and concern for one another. We lift to you all who are undergoing transition in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition especially Ahren, Anne & Bob, Bev, Dan, David, John, Jon, Jordan, Lawton, Lera & family, Carrie, and Tim. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

We especially lift up to you Presiding Bishop Elizabeth, our Synod Bishop Craig, and Pastor Carl. We ask that you be with their respective staffs as they live out their callings to serve. As we are called to be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one, be with the leaders and the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church, in Alpena. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

God, we pray for those who have been wounded and have lost their lives and their families in the senseless violence at MSU. Bless all who mourn. We pray for the MSU community as they process this tragedy and ask for their healing. We also pray for all who suffer from violence. With your mercy, welcome them into your kingdom, or bind up their wounds, restore their bodies, and heal their hearts. Bring comfort to all. Holy Spirit, continue to empower us to change this broken world. Make us advocates for a stable society, alive with hope in Christ, who died for us. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer,**

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

**GREETING OF PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

# **C: And also with you.**

# THE MEAL

*The gifts of the bread, wine and contributions*

*are brought forward to the altar.*

# **OFFERTORY Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ELW 184**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,*

*and ﬁll to the brim our cup of blessing.*

*Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,*

*that we may be fed with the bread of life.*

*Gather the hopes and dreams of all;*

*unite them with the prayers we offer.*

*Grace our table with your presence,*

*and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**C: Liberating God,**

**you break the bonds of injustice**

**and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving**

**for all your works of merciful power,**

**and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.**

**You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,**

**C: Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

P: 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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** **ELW Setting 10, Page 207**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.

P: 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

# **C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

# **C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

# **C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

# **C: Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

# **C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the bread and the wine (juice) are welcome to the table. Others may come forward for a blessing.*

*Communion will be offered a couple of ways. You may either take a communion cup with host as you enter worship and come forward to the rail or take part where you are seated. Or you may come forward and receive Communion directly from the Pastor at the rail.*

*When approaching the communion rail, come forward down the side aisle, kneel, if you are able, starting at the front of the communion rail (spot closest to the font) on your side and filling in toward the back. After receiving both the bread and the wine, you may return to your seat by the center aisle. If you prefer grape juice, please ask the assisting minister.*

# **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

# **C: Amen.**

A: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

# **C: Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together* ELW 471**

*Let us break bread together on our knees;*

*let us break bread together on our knees.* ***[Refrain]***

***Refrain****:*

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;*

*let us drink wine together on our knees****. [Refrain]***

***Refrain:***

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us praise God together on our knees;*

*let us praise God together on our knees. [****Refrain****]*

***Refrain:***

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

## (When all have returned to their seats,

## please stand as you are able.)

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

# **C: Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing

that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice,

love kindness,

and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

**BLESSING**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice

and breaks the oppressor’s rod

☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,

today and always.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN  *Shine, Jesus, Shine* ELW 671**

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;*

*Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!*

*Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the*

*Darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the word, shine upon us,*

*Set us free by the truth you now bring us.*

*Shine on me, shine on me.*

***Refrain:*** *Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;*

*Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!*

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces*

*Display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory,*

*Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.*

*Shine on me, shine on me:*

***Refrain:*** *Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;*

*Blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;*

*Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!*

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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