

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD - FEBRUARY 19, 2023

LOVE GOD ♦ LIVE THE WORD ♦ SERVE OTHERS ♦ SHARE CHRIST

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ♦ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ♦ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ♦ Amplified hearing aids are available at the usher stand by the double doors. Ask anyone for help at any

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE ONE

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

▼ MUSICAL PRELUDE / PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP (*Prayers may be found in the Green Hymnal, pp.42-51*)

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (*Spoken*)

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (*1 John 1:8*)

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(*Silence for reflection and self-examination*)

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

▲ ENTRANCE HYMN - "LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING" LBW #315 (*Sung*)

▲ APOSTOLIC GREETING (*Spoken*)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...be with you all. **And also with you.** (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)

▲ PRAYER FOR MERCY (*Spoken*)

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... **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**

▲ HYMN OF PRAISE (*Sung*)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

**We worship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken*)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God of majesty, through Jesus' transfiguration you reveal him as your beloved Son. Keep us faithful in the promise that through the cross and the empty tomb we are joint heirs with Christ and will one day enjoy the fullness of your glory for eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

▼ FIRST READING - Exodus 24:8-18 (*Pew Bible, p. 76*) / SECOND READING - 2 Peter 1:16-21 (*Pew Bible, p. 1207*)

▼ CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ Gospel Verse (*Sung*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - Matthew 17:1-9 (*Versicles Spoken, Pew Bible, p. 977*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventeenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ SERMON

▲ HYMN - "BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR" LBW #518 (*Sung*)

▲ APOSTLES' CREED (*Spoken*)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH (*Spoken*)

▲ OFFERTORY (*Sung*)

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 now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

▲ OFFERING PRAYER (*Spoken*)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Spoken*)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS (*Sung*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

▲ AGNUS DEI (*Sung*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN (*Sung*)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*Spoken*)

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life.

Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

▲ BENEDICTION (*Spoken*)

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

▲ SENDING HYMN - "LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING" LBW #259 (*Sung*)

▲ DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Transfiguration of Our Lord— February 19, 2023

*“But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and have no fear.’
And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.”*

– Matthew 17:7-8 –

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain with him. While they are up on the mountain, Jesus becomes transfigured before them. He appears to wearing dazzling white, and his face shines so brightly the other three men have to shield their eyes. And then Moses and Elijah appear alongside Jesus, revealing to the three disciples that Jesus reigns, not only on earth, but in heaven also. All of that would be frightening enough, but the story doesn't end there! A cloud overshadows them, and a voice from the cloud speaks: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Matt. 17:5b). The disciples are so afraid, they fall to the ground and bury their faces, much like a child trying to cover his or her face during a scary movie.

Fear can paralyze us. And the disciples would be facing more scary things. As they come down from the mountain, Jesus would head towards the cross at Calvary. They can't stay up on the mountain. Although, we can't blame the disciples for wanting to do so! In order for Christ to fulfill his mission on earth, he must come down from the mountain. So he tells his disciples to get up and not be afraid (v. 7). Jesus reminds his disciples that he is always with them. When the disciples looked up, they only saw Jesus (v.8). Jesus is the only one they heard.

Certainly we face times that are scary, too. There is only one person who can remove that kind of fear. Jesus came and touched his disciples. He spoke the Word. He removed the fear. When they looked up, they saw Jesus in his mercy and his comfort. We love to fantasize about Jesus in his glory, but we also need the Jesus who comes down from the mountain, who touches us, who takes away our fear and pain through his own fear and pain. Rise and have no fear.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending us Jesus to come down from the mountain and head towards the cross to save us from our sin. May we not be afraid to follow Jesus, and may we rely on him and his presence to give us comfort and peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.