



February 14, 2021

The Transfiguration
of Our Lord

At Home Worship
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

Congregation O Lord, who could stand?

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

Congregation therefore You are feared.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

Congregation I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

ENTRANCE HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**1 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.**

**2 Breathe, O 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.**

**3 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.**

**4 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!**

KYRIE Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;
Lord, have mercy on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And with your spirit.

Pastor O God,

in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son

You confirmed the mysteries of the faith

by the testimony of Moses and Elijah.

In the voice that came from the bright cloud

You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace.

Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory

And bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven;

Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

READINGS

Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

- 1 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please 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.³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."
- 4 Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please 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.⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."
- 6 Then Elijah said to him, "Please 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.⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.
- 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me."¹⁰ And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so."¹¹ And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-13; 4:1-6

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold,¹³ not 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....

¹ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.² But 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.³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing.⁴ 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.⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.⁶ For 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.

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter nine, beginning at verse two.

Congregation **Glory to You, O Lord.**

- ² And after 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,³ and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.⁵ And 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."⁶ For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.⁷ And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."⁸ And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.
- ⁹ And 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.¹⁰ So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.¹¹ And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?"¹² And he said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?"¹³ But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him."

After the reading:

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord

Congregation **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *'Tis Good, Lord, to be Here*

- 1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.**
- 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
Thy beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Thy messengers of old.**
- 3 Fulfiller of the past
And hope of things to be,
We hail Thy body glorified
And our redemption see.**
- 4 Before we taste of death,
We see Thy kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright
And make this hill our home.**
- 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

after each portion of the prayer:

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation hear our prayer.

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation Amen.

LITANY (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor 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.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Congregation Alleluia.

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

(Silence for meditation)

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

Congregation To You, O Lord.

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Pastor Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

Congregation Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Beautiful Savior*

- 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.**
- 2. Fair are the meadows. Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**
- 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.**
- 4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2nd Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Matthew Rojas, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Beau Bowman, Ron Cavalli, Dan Cinquegrana, Dot Durbec, Bette Eifert, Jenna Forbes, Pat Gianotti, Marilyn Grieco, Christopher Huss, Rowland Kegley, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Doris Lange, Fran Lelkendey, Gary Lopes, Ruth McReynolds, Scott Meyer, Linda Sue Olsen, Bev Otten, Danielle Potocek, José Rojas, Gloria Rubner, Irma Schmuck, Delaney Westenhiser, and Anna Zulli

The members and friends of St. Paul's share their sympathy and the sure hope of the resurrection with the family of Roland Kegley. Roland, Pastor Kegley's father, passed away on Sunday, February 7th, in Nashville. Roland's funeral will take place in Wisconsin.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH is Mile Square Church in Hoboken – Pastor Matthew Lytikainen.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, February 14

9:00 AM – Bible Study

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:15 AM – Online Worship Service

Monday, February 15

Presidents' Day

Wednesday, February 17

4:15 PM – Confirmation Class

7:30 PM -- Ash Wednesday Communion Service