

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 14, 2021
Transfiguration of Our Lord
Valentine's Day**



P: This is the day that the Lord has made.
C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

GATHERING SONG: *Shine Jesus, Shine* ELW 671

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, Shine on me.

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, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood i may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, Consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me.

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.

GREETINGS

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.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our Creator and Redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this renewal of wedding vows. Look with favor upon W and M and grant that they may continue to rejoice in all your gifts and at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

(At this point Scripture shall be read and a brief homily given.)

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

²Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Romans 10:8-13

⁸But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 15:9-12

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Homily

Silence for meditation

HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage found human community in a joy that grows and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with His abundant and ever-present support. God sustains you in any time of weariness and restores your joy.

THE RE-AFFIRMATION OF VOWS

W and M, if it is your intention to continue to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, renew your promises which bound you as husband and wife.

M, do you again promise to take W to be your wife from this day forward, to join with her and share all that is to come, and to be faithful to her until death shall part you?
“I do.”

W, do you again promise to take M to be your husband from this day forward, to join with him and shall all that is to come, and to be faithful to him until death shall part you?

“I do.”

Hand rings to the Pastor

Blessing of the Rings by Pastor

The circle has long been a symbol for God. Without beginning or end, and with no point of weakness, the circle is a reminder of the eternal quality of God and God’s unending strength. Thus, these rings serve to remind us of the relationship which *W* and *M* have with God, as well as the relationships which they have with one another. These rings are symbols of those covenants, and should serve as reminders for us to be faithful in all our relationships.

Let us pray: Gracious God, we seek a special blessing this day upon *W* and *M* as they give and receive these rings. May they ever be conscious of your love and faithfulness as they are faithful to one another. Bless them by their love for one another, and by your presence in their family. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The couple may again exchange rings with these or similar words.

M starts: W, I give you this ring/ as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

W follows: M, I give you this ring/ as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

W and M by their promises before God and in the presence of this gathering, have renewed their bond to one another as husband and wife.

BLESSING

Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. Amen.

The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, continue to establish and sustain you, that the happiness you have found in each other may grow in holy love until your life’s end. Amen.

PRAYERS

Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

Let us pray for W and M in their life together:

Faithful Lord, source of love, pour your goodness upon W and M that they may fulfill the vows which they have renewed this day and reflect your love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage and love toward you, toward each other, toward their beloved children, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth, according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this day of rejoicing, let us bless God for divine love made flesh in Jesus Christ. We praise you, O God, for the joy that name and name have found in each other, and we pray that their love and faithfulness may reflect your gracious love and enrich our common life. Gracious and faithful God,

C: hear our prayer.

Give them gentleness and patience, affection and understanding, readiness to trust one another, and, when they hurt each other, grace to acknowledge their fault and to give and receive forgiveness. Gracious and faithful God,

C: hear our prayer.

You have given name and name the gift and heritage of children; make their home a haven of peace. Gracious and faithful God,

C: hear our prayer.

Use us to support name and name in their lives together. Give us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you. Gracious and faithful God,

C: hear our prayer.

Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here, even as we call to mind those who are absent from us. Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones, and be present with those for whom love is a stranger. Gracious and faithful God,

C: hear our prayer.

Look graciously on the world you have made and for which your Son gave his life. Strengthen marriages, families, and communities everywhere. Defend and guide all who suffer want or anxiety. Gracious and faithful God,

C: hear our prayer.

We give thanks to you, merciful God, for those who have died (especially name/s). Strengthen us by the example of the saints, and bring us all to the marriage feast of the Lamb. Gracious and faithful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Most gracious God, you have made us in your image and given us over to one another's care. Hear the prayers of your people, that unity may overcome division, hope vanquish despair, and joy conquer sorrow; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**

BENEDICTION

P: God almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hands of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and Holy spirit, be with you now and forever.

C: Amen

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Love One Another

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Betty and Jim Allen, Luke Antolick, Bob Braucht, Dawn Hauser, Dave Kuehl, Linda and Ralph Lehman, Sara Leighow, Bud Long (Geisinger, Danville) David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Jack Rishel, Joann Rishel, Ben Saar, Jane Shaffer, John Truax, Jillian Waldman, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Everyone affected by the fires on the West Coast; Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; our sister church, St. Wunibald in Heidenheim, Germany and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

The Lutheran Church **Women's Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honored of all married and soon to be married couples.

Join us for Zoom prayer

Every Tuesday evening at 8:00 pm Pastor Aucker is hosting a Zoom Prayer meeting. It started as a way to pray for those effected by the coronavirus pandemic and healthcare workers. We are now expanding it to include the needs of others as we pray for physical, spiritual, and emotional healing. Send an email to Pastor Aucker so he can send you the Zoom link.

kaucker1@comcast.net

Prayer/Holy Communion Each Wednesday

You are invited to come together for a service of prayer and the Sacrament of Holy Communion each Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in their fellowship hall by the main entrance. Pastor Aucker was asked to offer the Sacrament since they do not have a regular Ordained Minister to serve the Sacrament at Trinity. An invitation is extended to members of St. John and St. James to join us. Masks are required.

Newsletters/Annual Reports

Hard copies of the February/March 2021 and the 2020 Annual Report are available. If you would like a copy please contact the church office at 570-398-1676 or stjohn@stjl.org

Church Envelopes

Please call the church office Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at 570.398.1676 to arrange pick up or drop off of your 2021 offering envelopes. Thank you.

The 2021 Altar Flower Calendar is now available.

Please call or email the church to reserve your special dates in 2021. Russells fee is \$42.00. Thank you for continued support weekly.

“Souper Bowl Sunday”

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Souper Bowl Sunday. The New LOVE Center Food Pantry and the St. John Youth members truly appreciate your support.

Summer Camp

Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures are available please see Molly. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees. Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith.

The new address for Dave Kuehl

Valley View Nursing Home, 2140 Warrensville Rd, Montoursville PA 17754

Giving Plus+

Download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. Also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card.

Give+ Text:

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

Worship Resumes February 21

While the record number of people being admitted to the hospitals and dying of covid in our area and across the country continues unabated, we are hoping and praying that those numbers decline as more and more people receive the covid vaccine and the virus dissipates over time. We will return to in-person worship February 21, the first Sunday of Lent. After extensive conversation among council members and two polls of the membership, the council voted to move the worship time from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. with one service at this time. Last summer our attendance stayed down for the summer as many of our elderly were afraid to gather in worship. We are hoping that once the virus decreases that our members will return to active worship once again. We will continue to keep physically distanced and wear masks until the virus pandemic goes away as we care about our neighbors and your health and safety.

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Renewal of Vows

9:00 a.m. Worship Service on Facebook

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

10:00 a.m. Prayer/Communion Trinity Epsicopal

Ash Wednesday Service on Facebook

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 21, 2021

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

First Sunday in Lent

