

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Transfiguration of our Lord
Last Sunday after Epiphany



Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.

Introduction to the day

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prelude

The assembly stands

GATHERING

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *Love Divine, All Love Excelling* 631

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Beautiful Savior* 838

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Second Kings.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "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. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, 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. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "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. ⁷Fifty

men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Let us read responsively by verse the Psalm.

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

L: A reading from Second Corinthians.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled 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 we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclamation p.205

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.*

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark the ninth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: We Are Marching in the Light 866

THE APOSTLES' CREED p. 105 in the front of the hymnal

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for any who are sick and suffering (*especially*). Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Reconciling God, you draw all peoples to yourself. You restore broken relationships and create friendship where there used to be only strife. Bless the work of the Lutheran World Federation as they seek to share your peace and reconciliation with a divided world. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died (*especially*). Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Shout to the Lord*

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.206 (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

Dialogue (spoken)

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy p. 207

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

THE LORD'S PRAYER P 145 (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come and see.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond **Amen.**

Communion Song *Lamb of God p. 208*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

(repeat twice)

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Alleluia, Song of Gladness 318*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice "open Communion" here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the "real presence" of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving "The Body of Christ."

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn

Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Cabe and Cambell McCracken and their parents Crae and Megan, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins. We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Michael Burk Presiding Bishop Pro Temp --ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this weeks' helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers --Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Bob Wehler; Teller–Brayden Wehler Bulletin Sponsor-- Auckers; Children's Church--Pam Wehler.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers--Karen Aucker and Gary Johnson; Head Usher –Bob Wehler; Teller–Brayden Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor-- Auckers; Children's Church --Cathy Eisner. Flowers-- .

This week's flowers are to the glory of God. Last week's flowers were in celebration of the 31st anniversary of Pastor's ordination by Karen.

The Sanctuary Candle in February is in memory of Gram Yost by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan and Adalynn.

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 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

LOST!! A gold cross with much sentimental value was lost at the church a week or two ago. Please keep your eyes out for it and turn it in to the office.

The Women of the Church wants to determine if there would be any interest in again doing a **Secret Sister exchange**. As last time you would give your secret sister a small inexpensive gift every month and then at the end of the year we would have a little get together for the reveal. You will fill out a questionnaire and we will exchange the forms. Please give Carol Yost or Theresa Levins a call or text if you are interested, and we will plan a get together to do the exchange. Carol Yost 570-295-6335 or Theresa Levins 302-222-8594.

Calendar

Sunday, February 11, 2024 Transfiguration Sunday
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church
10:30 a.m. choir rehearsal
No Catechism - complete assignment at home

Monday, February 12, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Youth report 4:30 pm

6:00 pm Fasnacht dinner

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 Ash Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 18, 2024 1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church

10:30 Choir rehearsal

Elementary age Youth after church, Brunch provided. Cookie/Craft making



Lent/Easter Dates

February 13, Fasnacht Dinner provided by the youth. 6:00 pm.

Pastor will offer a PowerPoint on Lent.

February 14, Ash Wednesday Services, 6:00 am and 7:00 pm

February 21, Lent 1 at St. John Lutheran at 7:00 pm

February 28, Lent 2 at Garman Lutheran at 7:00 pm

March 6, Lent 3 at Grace Lutheran at 7:00 pm

March 10, Healing Service on Sunday morning, 9:30 am

March 13, Lent 4 at St. John Lutheran at 7:00 pm

March 20, Lent 5 at Garman Lutheran at 7:00 pm

March 24, Sunday of the Passion, Reading Passion of St. Mark, 9:30 am

volunteer readers needed. Sign-up sheet on the tower bulletin board

March 28, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm

March 29, Good Friday, St. James, 7:00 pm

March 30, Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am

March 31, Resurrection of Our Lord, 6:00 am and 9:30 am

April 7, Holy Humor Sunday, 9:30 am