

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



19 FEBRUARY 2012
Transfiguration of Our Lord

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 son. 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.

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.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL LEARNING CENTER

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

THE REV. WILLIAM COLEMAN, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

Cantor

HEATHER R. SMITH

Director of Christian Education and Family Ministries

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

Pastor Emeritus

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Learning Center Administrator

THE REV. BILLIE B. LOOMIS

Pastor Emeritus

19 FEBRUARY 2012

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Holy Communion • Setting II • 10:30

GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”

GATHERING MUSIC – Partita on “Thy Strong Word”

John A. Behnke

WALK TO EMMAUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT – “Transfiguration Prayer”

arr. William H. Mathis

Doug Chaffee - Speaker

Emma Chaffee – Soloist

O wondrous sight, O vision fair of glory that the church shall share.

Which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS 1 John 1:8-9

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

☐ God said, 'Let light shine out of darkness',
and made his light shine in our hearts.
We gather in that light, in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Let us approach God, who has created all things,
with humility and reverence.

Silence is kept for reflection.



P Holy and merciful God,
C Create a pure heart in me, O God,
 and put a new and loyal spirit within me.
 Do not banish me from your presence;
 and do not take your Holy Spirit away from me.
 Give me the joy that comes from your salvation,
 and make me eager to please you.
 Be gracious, Lord, this day,
 and keep me free from sin.
 Have mercy on me, O Lord;
 have mercy on me.
 Listen to my prayer, O Lord,
 and hear my cry for help.

P Hear the voice from heaven:
 "You are my own, my beloved."
 God gives power for the weary
 and strengthens the powerless.
 Be cleansed, be healed,
 for in the name of + Jesus Christ,
 we have heard the forgiveness of our sins
 and the revealing of God's reign.

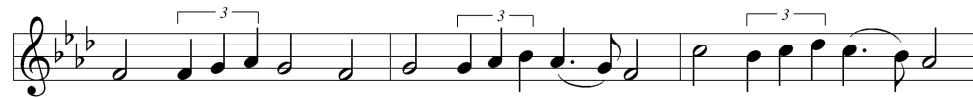
C Amen.

Please turn and reverence the cross of Christ.

As the cross passes you, turn and face the cross as it is carried to the chancel.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark-ness; at thy speak-ing
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark-ness, dark as night and
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ-teous; bright with thine own
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth forth in



it was done. For cre - at - ed light we thank thee,
 deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,
 ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,
 con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er beam - eth



while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath.
 and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who



light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 mouths to speak thy holy name.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 May the light which thou dost send
 fill our songs with alleluias,
 alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 to thee laud and honor be.
 To thee, light of light begotten,
 praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 glory, glory be to thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

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GREETING 2 Corinthians 13:14

P May the grace of Jesus Christ,
the mercy of the Holy One,
and the Spirit of the living God
be with you all.

C And also with you.



KYRIE Luke 17:13



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



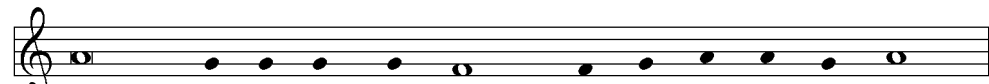
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

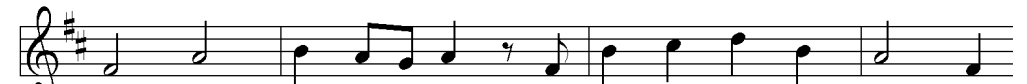


A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

GLORIA Luke 2:14



A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Ruth 2:4*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Let us pray.

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

(Children 2 years old through sixth grade may join their teachers at the pulpit doorway to exit for Children's Church.)

WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now 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.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 50:1-6

Refrain: *(Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.)*

Out of Zi-on, per-fect in beau-ty,
 God shines forth in glo-ry.

Psalm 50:2

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

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

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

⁴God 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."

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

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³And even 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. **G** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL – “This Is My Beloved Son”

Knut Nystedt

Molly Dugan - Soloist

*He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them,
and a voice from the cloud said:
"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him."
(Matthew 17:5)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSEL: Mark 9:2-9

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 exceedingly dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵And then Peter spoke with Jesus and said, "Rabbi, it is good that we are 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

G Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Coleman

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride - groom, light di - vine, and deep with - in
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us, when



own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's Son, our Lord and mas -
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch -
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him



ter, you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly!
es of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
here and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich in
Now, though dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and dis -
Let your mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! for you
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life for -



bles - sing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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APOSTLES' CREED

- C** 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.

THE PRAYERS *1 Timothy 2:1*

- A** God of eternal light and everlasting glory, send the Spirit of your Son Jesus Christ upon us so we may be transfigured by the dazzling vision of his goodness, as we bring our prayers to you, trusting that you hear them, and that you love us.
A brief silence.
- A** Holy God, reveal yourself in this place, and in the places we live and work. At times it's hard to see and hear you, but we follow just like your first disciples, making mistakes along the way, but carried along by your grace. Hear us, O God.
- C** Your mercy is great.
- A** Holy God, we give you thanks for leading us up on the mountain to get a glimpse of you so we may be strengthened as we move down the mountain during the season of Lent. Let us walk faithfully with your through Luther Memorial's Lenten disciplines. Hear us, O God.
- C** Your mercy is great.
- A** Holy God, stay with us, and we trust you will keep your promises. We are amazed at the many ways you are working among us, especially through the lives of our children. Hear us, O God.
- C** Your mercy is great.
- A** Holy God, let light shine out of darkness. Speak to those who look for glimmers of hope: refugees and displaced persons, exiles and immigrants, those who are lonely, and those who are ill (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
- C** Your mercy is great. ▶

- A** Holy God, you call the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting:
Hear our prayers for all who need your light, especially those we love who are hurting.....
We give you thanks for the light of your blessing, especially for those who have been healed....
Hear our prayers for those who have ascended with Elijah and Jesus into your eternal light, especially those we name upon our lips and in our hearts..... Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- P** Holy God, grant us grace to ascend unto your holy mountain and see the dazzling vision of your transfigured reality in our worship and prayer this day, and then strengthen us to listen for your voice and to follow you in faithful service, even when you are hidden from us, until at last we see you face to face in your eternal and everlasting glory, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. *Romans 16:16*

MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED *Psalm 116:12*

ANTHEM – “In Thee Is Gladness”

G.G. Gastoldi
arr. Carl Schalk

*In Thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, Sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given the gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest, our bonds Thou breakest,
Who trusts Thee surely has built securely, He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining to see Thy shining,
Dying or living to Thee are cleaving, naught can us sever: Alleluia!
If He is ours, we fear no powers, not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses, He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of His glory,
With heart and voices, all heaven rejoices in Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him and still shall raise Him glad hymns forever: Alleluia!*

OFFERTORY



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be ▶

fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Matthew 21:9*

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary..... ▶

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** You are indeed holy, O God, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. On a lonely mountain his human body was transfigured by your holy splendor. In his face, we have glimpsed your glory. In his life, we have seen your love.
- 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.
- 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.
- Illumine our lives, O God, with the radiance of Christ's love, and inspire us to shine in faith and witness as his holy disciples. Transform us into his likeness that we may live for you, as he lived, and love others, as he loved.
- By your Spirit bind us with Christ, and to one another in ministry, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly meal. ▶

Through your son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours,
Almighty God, now and forever

☑ Amen.

☑ **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. *Matthew 6:9***

AGNUS DEI



☑ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come and receive the feast of good things.

☑ Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

Please come forward by the center aisle. The distribution of the elements is by the method of intinction (dipping). Receive the bread and dip it into the chalice (cup). Wine is in the metal chalice. Grape juice, for those who prefer it, is in the earthenware chalice. Return to your place by the side aisle.

COMMUNION *John 1:29*

ANTHEM – “In Thee Is Gladness”

**G.G. Gastoldi;
arr. Douglas E. Wagner**

(Handbell Choir)

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

BLESSING

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Everlasting God, we bless you
that you have brought us to the mountaintop
and fed us with the life and light of your Son.
Send us in his name from this place
to bring light into dark corners,
healing where lives are torn,
and nourishment to every hungry heart,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”

BLESSING *Numbers 6:24-26*

- P** God the Father,
God the Son,
and God the Holy Spirit,
bless you and + give you peace.
C Amen.

DISMISSAL *Luke 7:50*

- A** Go in peace, as we prepare for the season of Lent!
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “In Thee Is Gladness”

Johannes Matthias Michel

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