

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 27th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

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Bulletin by email:	Judy Mason		chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your only-begotten Son You once confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the ancient fathers, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud You wondrously foreshowed our adoption by grace. Therefore mercifully make us coheirs with our King of His glory, and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAY FOR UKRAINE:

Gracious God, Faithful Father, what men create for evil You can bend toward good. Curb the aggression and impulses to control through destruction. Spare lives in body, mind & soul. Comfort children and all the vulnerable through your own presence there in the face of those called upon to help & protect. Support, sustain & give courage to our own soldiers who work with NATO forces. May all pathways remain safe, allow peace, safety & normalcy to be restored, and grant all homecomings be joyful. We pray in the trust & hope that you hear & answer us, through the precious life-saving name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Children’s Message: **Psalm 99: 5** <https://youtu.be/0I13FMT3-S4>

Organist: Mayumi Munoz

Readers: 9 a.m. — Daniel Figueroa; 11 a.m. — Paul Wachs

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 1 Cor. 1: 26-31	Wed.: Rom. 3: 21-28	Friday: Matt. 10: 40-42
Tuesday: Phil. 1: 27-30	Thurs: 1 Cor. 3: 5-9	Saturday: Luke 17: 5-10

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE: We know each of us should all be working to memorize God's Word! You are invited to listen to our Children's Messages where we are focusing on understanding and memorizing a Psalm verse each week. This week is Psalm 99: 5.

WORSHIP NOTE:

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

UPDATE – COVID 19 PROTOCOL: We continue to live with Covid 19 in our midst but as restrictions are lifted, we ask that everyone remain diligent in monitoring themselves for fever, cold and flu-like symptoms, and if any of the symptoms are present, to please refrain from attending in-person services. Services will continue to be available on-line and in the bulletin.

If you are attending worship services or meetings, please continue to:

- ✓ Wear a mask (*covering both mouth and nose at all times*)
- ✓ Sanitize your hands frequently
- ✓ Social distance (*2 metres or 6 feet apart*)

YOUTH CATECHISM CLASS in-between the services today, Feb. 27th, 10:10—10:45 AM. Led by Pastor Todd
NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR FEBRUARY OR MARCH.



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2nd at 7 PM.: Holy Communion Worship with ashes. This reverent service begins our **"Season of Lent"** in preparation for our Lord's death and resurrection. Please plan on joining us.

MID-WEEK LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: begins Wednesday, MARCH 9, 7:00 – 8:00 pm. and continues every Wednesday until Easter. Led by Pastor Todd in the church sanctuary. Materials will be provided ahead of time.

**"LIFT HIGH THE CROSS -- Jesus' Focus For Our Freedom:
 A Lenten Journey Through Matthew's Gospel account of the Passion."**
 Please join us.

Women's Bible Study: Have you ever thought about the central role the table plays in the lives of Christians? The Bible is full of references about food, drink, eating, and fellowship. Jesus knew the power of the table and used it to teach and embody truth about himself. When we sit down for a meal with others, we get to know them better while we nourish our bodies and souls. In this seven-session series, complete with simple yet delicious recipes, Bianca Juárez Olthoff leads us through Jesus' interactions around the table, inspiring us to invite people into our homes, open the Word of God, and break bread together. We hope you will consider joining us in person, here at the church on **Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** or watch this study entitled **"Table Talks"** yourself at rightnowmedia.org.
(March 4, March 25, April 8, April 22)

LWMLC/MARY MARTHA SOCIETY: According to the government's re-opening plan, we should be able to meet in person for our March meeting when we hope to have a guest speaker and make Easter cards for our shut-ins.

LWML-Canada, Ontario District, Niagara Zone, is hosting our District Convention in St. Catharines at Grace Lutheran Church (accommodation at Niagara College) on June 9 to 11th, 2022. More details will follow. If at all possible, please plan to attend. It is a wonderful time to get to know and renew friendships with our sisters in Christ from around the province! It is a time to focus on **"Joy, Patience, Prayer"** which is the theme of the Convention. (Romans 12:12) *Our Seminary Student Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniella will be our wonderful entertainment for Friday evening!*

LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.** The theme for the gathering is **"IN NOT OF"** from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY>

Last Sunday Attendance: Feb. 20th, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – 52; 11 A.M. – 36; Total: 88

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (–)</u>
Current:			2,417.00	26,811.11	
LCC Missions			252.00	1,982.00	
Property Improvement:			311.00	793.00	

MEMORIAL DONATIONS have been given in memory of Josie Knoll to Christ Lutheran Church by Michael & Sharon Koch, Ray Anderson, James & Wendy Hyatt and Marilyn Chapman.

GREETERS: - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.

EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED: With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles
- 6) Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided]

We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

CREATIVE COMMUNION

*Creative Worship for the Parish Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
February 27, 2022 + 9 AM Worship*

FIRST HYMN:

“Jesus Is Lord Of All”

[Gaither]

Verse 1: All my tomorrows all my past
Jesus is Lord of all
I've quit my struggles, contentment at last
Jesus is Lord of all

Chorus: King of kings Lord of lords
Jesus is Lord of all
All my possessions, and all my life
Jesus is Lord of all

Verse 2: All of my conflicts -- all my thoughts
Jesus is Lord of all
His love wins the battles, I could not have fought
Jesus is Lord of all.

Chorus: King of kings Lord of lords
Jesus is Lord of all
All my possessions, and all my life
Jesus is Lord of all

Verse 3: All of my longings, all my dreams
Jesus is Lord of all
All of my failures, His power redeems
Jesus is Lord of all.

Chorus: King of kings Lord of lords
Jesus is Lord of all
All my possessions, and all my life
Jesus is Lord of all

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CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,

Come to the help of Your people,

Turning us from our sin to live for You alone.

Give us the blessing of Your Holy Spirit,

that we may confess our sins,

receive Your forgiveness,

and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,

our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another:

[brief silence for personal confessions]

Gracious Father,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have sinned and turned ourselves away from Your holy face. We are truly sorry for all that we have done wrong and humbly repent. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to You, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God our Father, Who is rich in mercy, loved you even when you were dead in sin, and made alive together with Christ our Lord. By grace you have been saved. By the holy command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SUNG KYRIE:

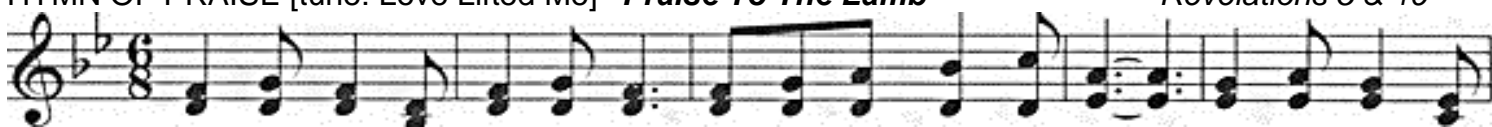
"Have mercy"

[tune – Amazing Grace]

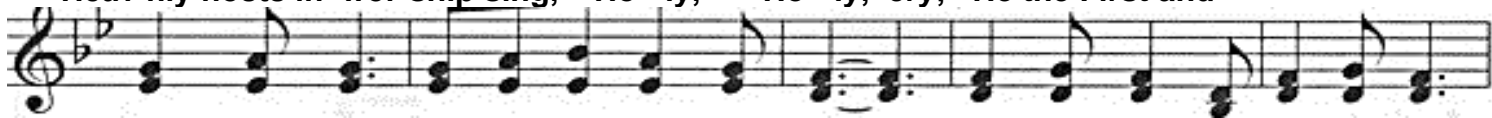
**Have mercy on your people, Lord,
Have mercy Je-sus Christ!
Have mercy on Your people, Lord;
Have mercy, give us peace...!**

HYMN OF PRAISE [tune: Love Lifted Me] *"Praise To The Lamb"*

Revelations 5 & 19



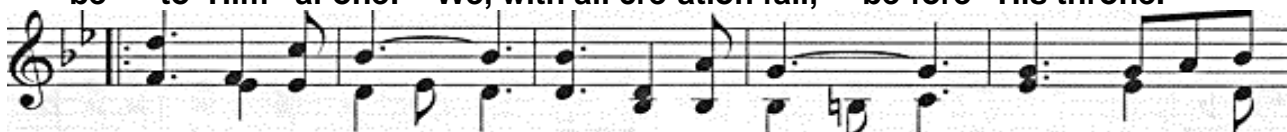
Heav'nly hosts in wor-ship sing, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, cry; He the First and



He the Last, God the Lord Most High. Glo-ry, hon-our, pow'r and praise



be to Him al-one! We, with all cre-ation fall, be-fore His throne.



Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb; By His great



off-er-ing, we are set free!



Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb; Now and for-



ev - er - more! --- Praise to the Lamb!

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

We pray: Lord God, Heavenly Father, in the glorious transfiguration of Your only-begotten Son You once confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the ancient fathers, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud You wondrously foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Therefore mercifully make us coheirs with our King of His glory, and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE:

The Old Testament: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12*

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, “I will give it to your descendants”; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’ Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: O The Glory Of Your Presence

O the glory--- of Your presence;
We, Your temple--- give You rev’rence .
Come and rise to Your rest And be blest by our praise
As we glory in Your embrace;
As Your presence now fills this place.
O the glory (O the glory) of Your presence (of Your presence)
We Your temple (we Your temple) give You rev’rence.
Come and rise to Your rest And be blest by our praise
As we glory in Your embrace;
As Your presence now fills this place.

And I stand, I stand in awe of You
I stand, I stand in awe of You.
Holy God, to whom all praise is due,
I stand in awe of You.
Holy God, to whom all praise is due,
I stand in awe of You.
I stand in awe of You!
Come and rise to Your rest
And be blest by our praise
As we glory in Your embrace;
As Your presence, Your matchless presence,
Your holy presence---now fills this place.
Come, fill this place!

The Epistle: *Hebrews 3:1-6*

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also 'was faithful in all God's house.' Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honour than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. Christ, however, was faithful over God's house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse: *"To God Be The Glory"*

**To God be the glory great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life gate that all may go in**

Chorus: **Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory great things He has done**

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The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 9:28-36*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 9th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the

Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON SONG: "Shine, Jesus Shine!"

Verse 1: 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

Chorus: 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.

Verse 2: 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;

Chorus: 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

Verse 3: As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me;

Chorus: 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

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Almighty God and merciful Father: thank you for all your goodness and love - to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation and preservation, and for all the blessings of this life. But above all we thank and praise you for the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Give us such an awareness of your mercy, that our hearts may be thankful and that we may praise you all the time – not just with our words, but with our whole life.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

Almighty and eternal God, you have let us share in your glory. Increase in us a life of faith and love so that your glory may shine through us in the sight of others. Bless our Synod and Regional leaders, our clergy, professors, church lay leadership and all congregations. Pour out your continual blessing on them that they may truly please you. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

Almighty God, ruler of all – in your kingdom there is peace and righteousness. We pray for nations now in conflict. Take away prejudice, cruelty and revenge. Grant that barriers which divide may crumble, suspicions disappear and hatreds cease.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

Lord of the nations, we pray for HGM the Queen, our Prime Minister, Premier and parliaments of our nation,. Direct their work and influence their decisions to the advancement of your glory, and the safety and welfare of this country. Let peace and joy, truth and justice be established among us. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus shared in Nazareth many an earthly home with table guests. Bless our homes & family lives, we pray, that parents and children may be bound to each other by mutual love and honour, and come to knowledge of your love for them. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

We commit to you all who are unwell or in need and those who care for them, especially those we know to be in need.....[names given here...]. May Your Son's transfigured glory fill them with all hope and peace as you bring healing and relief in your own time and will; Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

And finally, O Heavenly Father, because of your great love you work for our good in all things. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Teach us to seek you and to rely on you in all our needs, so that our deepest desires may be satisfied, and we may finally see you face to face. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT [SPOKEN]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right and joyful that we at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God: You have sent your only Son, Jesus Christ to appear among us as a human being, and through him you have fully revealed the light of your presence to us. And so, with the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your glorious name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

[Tune: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God"]

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, Lord God Al - migh - ty,
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout glo-ries of Your name.
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, sing -- ing Ho - san -- na!
Bles -- sed is He Who comes in our Lord's name.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always: **And also with you.**

LAMB OF GOD

O Jes-us Chri-st, True Lamb of God; the sins of the world, You
Take a -- way. Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray;
And bless us with Your peace; A -- men

COMMUNION HYMN:

“Majesty!”

**Majesty ! Worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise
Majesty! Kingdom authority
Flow from His throne, Unto His own
His anthem raise**

**So exalt, lift up on high
The name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus the King**

**Majesty worship His majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings**

**So exalt, lift up on high
The name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus the King**

**Majesty worship His majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings**

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- 1. God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, he's so good to me.**
- 2. He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me, he's so good to me.**
- 3. We eat this bread, we drink this cup, we share Christ's Meal, He's so good to me.**
- 4. I praise his name, I praise His name, I praise his name! He's so good to me.**

Paul Makai, 1970, African Spiritual, alt. www.hymnary.org

SONG OF SIMEON:

“Let Your Servant Depart”

[tune: Sweet By & By]

**Let your servant depart now in peace,
For Your Word from of old is fulfilled,
Your salvation my eyes now have seen,
Long-prepared as it always has been.**

**In Your light, you reveal, the world's promise and Israel's great joy!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always may You be adored.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Pour out upon us, the Spirit of Your Love, O Lord God, and unite the wills of all whom You have fed with this One Heavenly Food, the Body and Blood of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Servant, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

What a fellowship what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Leaning; Leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning; Leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms

Verse 2: O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
O how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Leaning; Leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning; Leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms

Verse 3: What have I to dread what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Leaning; Leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning; Leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms

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CREATIVE COMMUNION

*Creative Worship for the Parish Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
February 27, 2022 + 11 AM Worship*

OPENING HYMN:

“Father Who The Light”

[Tune: Hallelujah! Jesus lives]

**Father, who the light this day, out of darkness did create,
Shine upon us now, we pray, while within Your church we wait;
Wean us from the works of night, make us children of the light.**

**Savior, who this day did break -- from the bondage of the tomb,
Bid our slumb'ring souls awake, and dispel their doubt and gloom;
Let us, from our bonds set free, come to You with bended knee.**

**Bless'ed Spirit, Comforter, sent this day from Christ on high,
Lord, on us Your gifts confer, cleanse, illumine, sanctify;
All Your mercy shed abroad; lead us to the truth of God.**

Julia Elliot, 1835, public domain The Lutheran Hymnal © 1941

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mer - cy on us; Christ, have mer - cy
on us; Lord, have mer - cy on us.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Now The Feast" Tune: "Now All The Vault Of Heaven Resounds"

1 Now is the Feast of vic - tor - y God's Lamb, from
2 Join all cre - a - tion in this song! Prais - es en-circ -
sin has set us free! Praise our Sav - iour! Al-le-lu - ia!
-ling Heav'n's High Throne! Praise the true Lamb! Al-le-lu - ia!
Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom, strength— Bles - sing and
Bles - sing and hon - our, glo-ry might— wor - ship our
hon - our shall be His! Praise our Saviour! Praise our Saviour!
Lord in glor - y bright! Praise the true Lamb! Praise the true Lamb!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

Words: Jose Pagan © 1979, alt Alabare! www.hymnary.org
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN "A Hymn Of Glory" www.hymnary.org

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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

Let us pray: Lord God, Heavenly Father, in the glorious transfiguration of Your only-begotten Son You once confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the ancient fathers, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud You wondrously foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Therefore mercifully make us coheirs with our King of His glory, and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12*

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, “I will give it to your descendants”; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’ Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choir: O The Glory Of Your Presence

O the glory--- of Your presence;
We, Your temple--- give You rev’rence .
Come and rise to Your rest And be blest by our praise
As we glory in Your embrace;
As Your presence now fills this place.
O the glory (O the glory) of Your presence (of Your presence)
We Your temple (we Your temple) give You rev’rence.
Come and rise to Your rest And be blest by our praise
As we glory in Your embrace;
As Your presence now fills this place.

And I stand, I stand in awe of You
I stand, I stand in awe of You.
Holy God, to whom all praise is due,
I stand in awe of You.
Holy God, to whom all praise is due,
I stand in awe of You.
I stand in awe of You!
Come and rise to Your rest
And be blest by our praise
As we glory in Your embrace;
As Your presence, Your matchless presence,
Your holy presence---now fills this place.
Come, fill this place!

The Epistle: *Hebrews 3:1-6*

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also 'was faithful in all God's house.' Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honour than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. Christ, however, was faithful over God's house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA & VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God. *John 20:31*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 9:28-36*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 9th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord

and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light"

LSB 411

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

Kathleen Thomerson © 1970, 1975 Celebration www.hymnary.org

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Almighty God and merciful Father: thank you for all your goodness and love - to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation and preservation, and for all the blessings of this life. But above all we thank and praise you for the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Give us such an awareness of your mercy, that our hearts may be thankful and that we may praise you all the time – not just with our words, but with our whole life.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

Almighty and eternal God, you have let us share in your glory. Increase in us a life of faith and love so that your glory may shine through us in the sight of others. Bless our Synod and Regional leaders, our clergy, diaconal servants, church lay leadership and all congregational workers. Pour out your continual blessing on them that they may truly please you. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

Almighty God, ruler of all – in your kingdom there is peace and righteousness. We pray for nations now in conflict. Take away prejudice, cruelty and revenge. Grant that barriers which divide may crumble, suspicions disappear and hatreds cease.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

Lord of the nations, we pray for HGM the Queen, our Prime Minister, Premier and parliaments of our nation,. Direct their work and influence their decisions to the advancement of your glory, and the safety and welfare of this country. Let peace and joy, truth and justice be established among us. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus shared in Nazareth many an earthly home with table guests. Bless our homes & family lives, we pray, that parents and children may be bound to each other by mutual love and honour, and come to knowledge of your love for them. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

We commit to you all who are unwell or in need and those who care for them, especially those we know to be in need.....[names given here...]. May Your Son's transfigured glory fill them with all hope and peace as you bring healing and relief in your own time and will; Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great!

And finally, O Heavenly Father, because of your great love you work for our good in all things. Teach us to seek you and to rely on you in all our needs, so that our deepest desires may be satisfied, and we may finally see you face to face. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

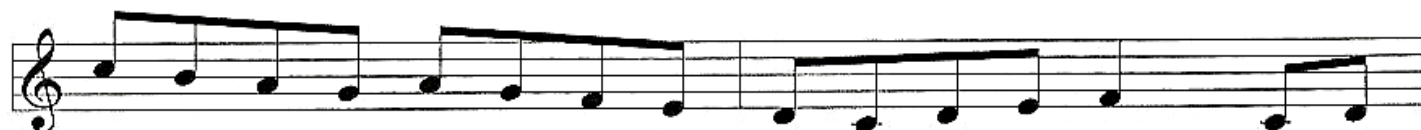
(Sung responsively: Tune: Thine The Amen)



May the Lo-rd be with you: **May the Lord re-main with you;** Lift your



hearts to God in praise: **To the Lord our hearts we raise!** Let us

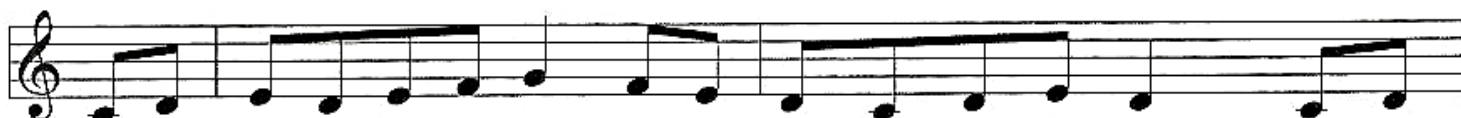


of-fer praise and tha-nks, to the Lord our God and King! **Praise and**

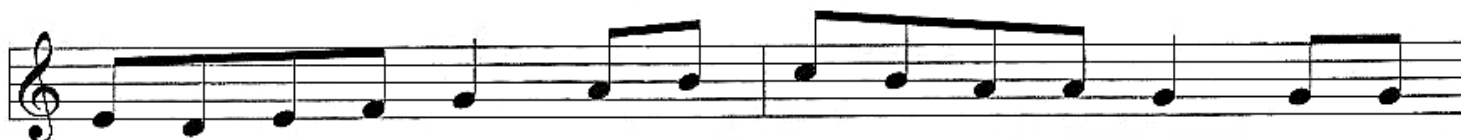


thank-ful-ness un - to the Lord our God we do bring!

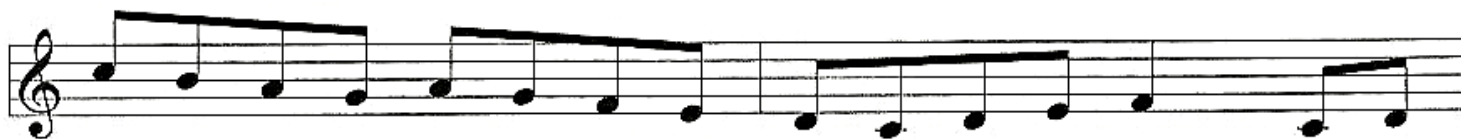
It is truly good and right, that we praise and thank our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord: having fashioned everything; born of Mary, crucified, burst out from the borrowed grave, since He lives, and loves His Church, we join Heav'n's' endless song:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba - oth, a - dored; Heav'n and



earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -



san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly



blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

**Tis good, Lord, to be here, Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.**

**'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Your beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand, Your messengers of old.**

**Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be,
We hail Your body glorified and our redemption see.**

**Before we taste of death, we see Your kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.**

**'Tis good, Lord, to be here. Yet we may not remain;
But since You bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.**

Joseph Robinson, 1888 <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/t/g/l/tgl2bher.htm>

SONG OF SIMEON:

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

“Dazzling Presence”

[Tune: “Son of God Eternal Savior”]

**Dazzling presence on the mountain —
Human eye had never seen
Such a wonder, such resplendence,
Heav’n and earth in cloud convene.
“This is my Son, my beloved,”
Thund’rous voice from cloud exclaimed.
“Word made flesh to heal creation,”
To disciples God proclaimed.**

**From this mount of mystic splendor
To the cross Christ presses on;
Here no Moses, nor Elijah,
Only thieves Christ’s wings adorn.
“Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,”
Was one’s penitential sigh.
With transfiguring assurance,
Christ rejoins his fervent cry.**

**From the heights of New Creation,
Christ beholds his world, redeemed;
As with Peter and companions,
Bring us now to sights unseen.
Justice, mercy, and compassion:
These the booths he bids us build,
That the earth he loves may flourish
As each life with grace is filled.**

**Let our praise ring from each mountain,
Into deepest valleys pour,
Where with lives of grateful service
We adore Christ evermore.
To the Son, God’s own beloved,
And the Spirit endlessly,
May the church’s praise be lifted
To the Blessed Trinity**

Words: Rev. Paul Hoffman © 2014 Augsburg Fortress

<https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/dazzling-presence-on-the-mountain-lead-line>

REV TODD HOFFFS
TRANSFIGURATION [Last Sunday after the Epiphany]
Luke 9:26-38
“The Face of Grace”
February 27, 2022

³⁵ Then a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him.”³⁶ When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone. They didn’t tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Transfiguration, like any transformation, makes us think of outward changes. Like when a saggy body gets muscular through workouts. Or when an entertainer creates a new look for themselves. But when this kind of change involves the divine, It’s not just an outward change.

All who are involved see life new and different. The ordinary appears extraordinary. There’s an art project with kids that involves ordinary household objects.

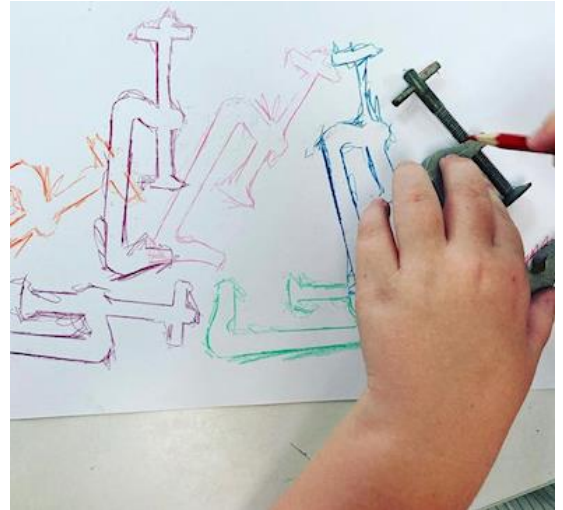
A mixing spoon, a hand-mixer, maybe a hammer, a clamp, or pliers. You take these objects and trace them onto large paper in different directions, Over-lapping, to create outline patterns. It helps kids develop an understanding and appreciation for simple tools By seeing them in a new and different way. Jesus’ disciples see Him in a different way. Epiphany began with worship of wise-men, A baptism by John and a wonderful sign of making wine from water.

Jesus is once again THE BELOVED SON Who silences the disciples from sharing this news. Clearly Peter, James, and John experienced Jesus’ beloved divine sonship, but also their own—in being chosen for such a mountaintop moment.

Mountaintops have always been a place where the divine is encountered. We think about Noah landing on Mt. Ararat after seeing the rainbow promise of God, of God providing for Abraham on Mt. Moriah rather than needing to have his son sacrificed, of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai and later seeing the Promised Land from Mt. Pisgah, of Elijah on Mt. Carmel proving God’s power to supreme, of the mountain-hill on the shores of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus gave his famous sermon on the Mount or Mt. Olive where Jesus would pray in the Garden of Gethsemane before His death. And today the disciples ascend Mt. Tabor and have this other-worldly encounter.

Mt. Tabor is nearby the Sea of Galilee and marks a place where Israel defeated their Canaanite enemies generations prior. Mountains serve as places for experiencing God’s presence, His guidance, even His grace. I’ve personally never been a huge fan of mountains.

Most likely my own fear of heights. Or when travelling, the fear of driving off the edge One can almost feel claustrophobic going through them--[drive down to US border beyond Calgary very nice with mountains and foothills and buttes] Most people like mountains. The climb upwards, the risk, the solitude, the alone-ness, feeling closer to the Heavens. Jesus goes on the mountain to be alone, taking 3 disciples, witnesses. While in prayer, with His Father – Jesus is transfigured. This is a metamorphosis. A change in His Form. His face is different; His clothing glowing bright like the sun; His inner divine, God-like nature is coming through His Body, So that the almighty power glows with His human flesh and blood. Patriarch Moses and Prophet Elijah appear with Him, bathed in heavenly glory, and it is magnificent....(!) But the disciples are heavy with sleep. They don’t see bright, shiny Jesus, let alone Moses and Elijah; Makes you wonder how one could sleep with this going on!? I totally get it. I HEAR NOTHING AT NIGHT IN MY SLEEP Alarms could sound, a tornado could whisk away our house & I’d never know! Maybe it’s just as well Peter, James and John sleep.



Moses and Elijah are talking with Jesus. That would've been scary and strange. Dead people aren't supposed to talk much less appear on earth. Their divine discussion is about Jesus' departure. Literally, HIS EXODUS. Ancient Israel endured an Exodus. Enslaved under Egypt, led to freedom and the promised Land by Moses. Years of wilderness wanderings up to the borders of Canaan. Their Exodus is a true deliverance by God with the 10 Commandments and a covenant. Promised of salvation from the real enemy of sin by the Saviour of all nations. For Peter, James, and John, and for all of you, This Exodus brings this Old Testament history in full view. Recollection of God's mighty acts in history to save, rescue, and deliver His people. Jesus' exodus is all of that and more. More impressive than the fiery chariots that bore Elijah to heaven. More powerful than the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. This is the greater exodus, the one that finally brings Moses and all believers into the Promised Land. Jesus will accomplish this Exodus by travelling to Jerusalem. Jesus' Transfiguration gives us a picture of the saving Gospel. His exodus will bear the weight of every sin from every generation before and since. The sad and painful story that began in the Garden of Eden with sin and exile finds its joyful end in the crucified and resurrected Son sitting at the right hand of God and waiting for the day when He returns and bring us to the mansions He's prepared for us in the heavenly Eden, with free access to the living tree of life near the river of life. Jesus exodus reverses the curse and opens the entrance to life everlasting forever. So when Jesus glows it's with the power that will enable Him to suffer death But rise again to new life. The life with the Father and His sonship as a member of the Holy Trinity Will keep Him focused on this Exodus plan to cleanse the world in His Blood. This exodus discussion and this glorious Gospel encounter wakes the disciples up! Awakened now, maybe they can actually see Jesus for Who He is. The ordinary rabbi, the Son of God Who makes them feel inferior. Peter, James, and John are still human; and so, like all of you, they struggle with this whole thing. This is all brand new. As they look, Moses and Elijah seem to shine as brightly as their Lord. Elijah and Moses glow, but only because of Jesus' shining body. Like the moon, they reflect the light from this True SON. They make the mistake of putting Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the same level. This is why Peter suggest giving them each a tent to sleep in. He didn't mean to, or at least he wasn't aware of what he was saying, but its strange putting Moses and Elijah on the same level with Jesus. Or is it? It is good for us all to be here isn't it? Jesus doesn't correct Peter. No scolding. No rebuking. Moses and Elijah testify to Jesus' Word and work. Doesn't the risen Lord appear with the Emmaus travellers And open up the Scriptures to them, beginning with Moses, the prophets and the Psalms?! The Old is fulfilled in the New. Jesus fulfills the Law of Love. Jesus' exodus is the end of every journey in search of identify and renewal. This wakes up every child born in the sleep of sluggish sin. We've all been woken up by Water and the Word, in Holy Baptism, And now you can see all these things as they are. Even though we may struggle to trust, To see a light at the end of the tunnel, We'd like to house the holiness of God on earth close to us too. Sometimes we put other things on the same level as Jesus, maybe even on a higher level that He is. We pay little attention to our spiritual health. Your Father in heaven knows this about you, of course. He knows that you struggle. He knows that you are still learning to see, Needing a lot of encouragement to trust and live in hope. and that this will be an on-going daily awareness. So it would make so much sense for God to show us things, To make our spiritual health come to life. But instead, God goes to work on our ears. Just like the 3 disciples. When the cloud overshadows them, they can't see anymore. Kind of like when we [or I'm] asleep. And they hear just one thing: God's booming voice: This is My Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him. Listen to Him. From the Greek word here we get the English term ACOUSTICS. And with acoustics, word and sounds fill the air so everyone is able to hear no matter when they sit or stand. The beloved Son's Words fill the space of our whole beings. Listening is so important. As we can easily hear without listening. It's as much as your attentive focus as it is your hearing. Simple yet profound advice. In this cloud all the things you think you see rightly are hard to see. Try walking around your house at night in the dark, You have to trust your ears to navigate without light. Because all the glow and the power and the appearance of Moses and Elijah are meaningless unless they reflect Jesus' glory and His message. It's all foolishness apart from Christ.

None of this has any glory of its own. As the cloud overshadows us, and Lent approaches, please don't run away. You can't see where you're going anyways.

Let every distraction be cast aside and every obstacle to trust thrown away. May all ears be open to your heavenly Father, who says of His Son: "Listen to Him." Listen. Listen for words of encouragement. Listen for cries of help. Listen for the prayers of the hurting. Listen for opportunities to help. Even the disciples kept silent and told no one in those days any of this.

But that was them then. It means that listening comes before speaking; Listening happens before you offer prayer or encouragement. Listening begins the act of mercy and compassionate help.

Because this is how the real change lives on from the Mount of transfiguration. After the cloud drifts away, Jesus looks like Himself again. Jesus was fully God and fully Man before the Transfiguration, and Jesus is fully God and fully Man after the Transfiguration. The real change occurs in His disciples: Peter, James, John, and you. Their eyes now see what their ears have heard.

Your eyes see Jesus in the face of those who call on you for help. Your eyes see Jesus in the bread and wine of Holy Communion Which is a meal that keeps transforming you. Forgiveness wakens you from the sleepiness of all your suffering. Our interactions with others, not only with God, change us, literally transfigure us, because our listening forms our understanding. And our normal, everyday appearance reveals a gentler glow of Jesus and His Spirit. Through our experiences, we gain patience, wisdom, love and mercy. This is why it's good Lord to be here.

It's good to encounter Jesus in a time of worship which keeps transfiguring.

It's good

Because we receive and show

Jesus' glowing

Face of grace.

Amen.