

### **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH - ST CATHARINES, ON**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2024** 

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

140 Russell Avenue St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1 Church: 905-685-8294 www.christlutheransc.ca Office Hours: Thursday to Friday—9 a.m. - 12 noon

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

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor:Pastor Todd Hoeffs(289-362-0113)sr.pastor@christlutheransc.caParish Assistant:Louise Gondosch(905-329-8579)parish.assistant@christlutheransc.caBusiness Manager:Karen McCumberbusiness.manager@christlutheransc.ca

Secretary: Pat Kimpel <u>secretary@christlutheransc.ca</u>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

Bulletin by email: chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\_TKTI9c\_OIBbMqGwLw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\_TKTI9c\_OIBbMqGwLw</a>

**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.

#### **DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Exod. 34: 29-35 Wed.: 22 Cor. 4: 13-18 Friday: Matt. 16: 24-28 Tuesday: 11 Cor. 4:3-6 Thurs: Gal. 1: 11-24 Saturday: Phil. 3: 20—4: 1

**Musicians**: Mayumi Munoz Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday—Gloria Meyer

**Reader**: Vijay Samuel

#### **EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

Today: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. – Sunday School, Youth Chat, Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. – Worship - The Transfiguration of our Lord with Communion

Youth go to "Activate"

3:00 p.m. - 2024 LWML PRAYER SERVICE at St. John's, Snyder

Monday: 7:30 p.m. – Choir

Tuesday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. – Precious Moments

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Lenten Communion Service (see note below)

Thursday: 10:00 -11:30 a.m. – SOUL

### YOU ARE INVITED!! Every Sunday!!



Hope to see you downstairs

for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
(during Sunday School & CHAT)

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats,
please contact:

Judy Mason 905-641-7546

<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>: In Sunday School today we learn with a simple command "Peace! Be still!" Jesus proclaims His power over a storm strong enough to shake even experienced fishermen. With the disciples, we must ask "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" How can your family respond to this question? Our Bible Verse: "Fear not, for I am with you". Isaiah 41:10

<u>CONFIRMAND & YOUTH CHAT</u> - Cancelled today! Second & fourth Sundays with youth leader Dan Figueroa. We will meet in the youth room from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. We will meet February 18, March 10 and 24. Hope to see you there!!

YOU GOTTA HAVE HEART THIS LENT! Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of journeying with Jesus to the cross & empty grave. February 14, Valentine's Day is the starting date this year. A Holy Communion Service with the imposition of ashes will be offered at 7 pm, with a homily by Pastor Todd on 1 Corinthians 13, "What's Love Got To Do, Got To Do With It?!?"



<u>THE 2024 LWML PRAYER SERVICE</u> will be held today at 3 p.m. at St. John Snyder Lutheran Church. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.



#### **LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS:**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2023: 7:00 p.m**.—Bible study with Pastor Todd and/or Fieldworker Vijay. Making Easter cards.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024: 7:00 p.m.—Cooking Demonstration.

"How to make Filo Pastry Hor d'Oeuvres" by Derrick Smith.

Tuesday, April 16, 2024: 7:00 p.m.—Mission Service night –

Quilt Tying and cutting stamps.

Tuesday, May 21, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.—Speaker / TBA.

Tuesday, June 18, 2023: Summer Pot Luck – 5:30 p.m. More details to follow!

Council Meeting will be on Monday, March 11th at 7 p.m.

THE SEMINARY CALL SERVICE: Saturday, May 25, 3 pm here at Christ followed by a reception.

**12th Regular Convention of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada**: July 11-14, 2024, at the Four Points by Sheraton in London, ON.

The convention theme is based on Psalm 149:1 'Sing to the Lord a new song'

Keynote Speaker will be Deb Burma who is a Christian author and LWML seminar leader. Special Interest Speakers will also tell of their cross-cultural ministry with the use of singing and music. The mites gathered throughout the past three years provided such great blessings to people around the world, from local support for a Bethlehem Walk in BC to International support of deaconesses in Nicaragua and Cambodia. Rev. Mark Smith will bring news of the work that is happening through those missions. Mission Grants for the next triennium will be voted on.

If you would be interested in attending, either in person or online, speak to Lorraine Kaija. Registration forms will be available in the coming months. You can also check out the LWML web site lutheranwomen.ca



## FAMILY NIGHT

# UNO & SUPPER

Singing & Devotions Saturday, February 24, 4:00 p.m.

The Parish Ed Committee will provide a meal of TACOS and Drinks Please bring a dessert OR munchies to share!!

Whether you are a family of 1 or 10 we hope you will join us!

#### PLEASE SIGN UP IN NARTHEX

Last Sur	nday Attendanc	e: Attn: Feb. 4th,	2024 — 10 a.m. – 108	SOUL: 38 members	, 12 support staff
	<u>Budget</u>	Weekly Need	Last Sunday	Year To Date	<u>+ or – ()</u>
Current	303,899.00	5,844.21	3,291.00	29,158.61	62.45
LCC Miss	ions 17,500.00	336.54	402.00	2,266.00	583.31
Property I	mprovement:		97.00	756.00	

**2023 DONATION TAX RECEIPTS**: Are available for pick up in your mailbox. Please save the Church some postage expense and pick yours up!

<u>A MEMORIAL DONATION</u> has been given to SOUL by Elvira Zernikel & family in loving memory of Elvira's mother. Martha.

**USED STAMPS**: Start saving and collecting your used stamps now! They will be gathered at the LWML-C Convention and donated to a charity who will in turn use them to purchase spiritual resources like Bibles.

<u>TECHNOLOGY ENTHUSIASTS</u> – The Worship Committee is seeking individuals who would be interested in learning how to operate the recording equipment used for our worship services. Training will be provided. Should you have any questions or require more information please speak to either Tom Kuhl, Theresa Mason or Pastor Todd.



<u>Granny Squares still needed</u>: This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. It has been about 6 months that we have been able to show Christ's love in our Caring Squares blankets. (23 blankets to date!) Thank you for donating yarn or completed squares as we continue with this project! Praise

God! If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

SURVEY: CHRISTMAS EVE Service TIMES: The Worship Committee is investigating optimal times for Christmas Eve services. Our 10 pm service attendance numbers are not what we historically have seen. Please participate in a quick survey at the back of the church February 4, 11 & 18<sup>th</sup>. Look at the chart on the bulletin board at the back of the church; get 1sticky dot and place it on the time slot you and your family would prefer to attend Christmas Eve services. One per person. If you have any questions or wish to email your choice, please speak to or email either Judy Slingerland or Kathy Kuhl.

<u>TAPESTRY</u> is an **LWML-C Publication** available to anyone. For 2024 it will publish (3) three times a year with the possibility of a digital issue in the summer. The cost for a paper copy is \$18 for the 24/25 subscription year. Deadline for renewal has been moved up to March 15 this year. Please contact Wendy Hyatt for more information or to start or renew your paper subscription. A sample issue is available.

# Creative Holy Communion TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 11, 2024 + 10 AM Worship

BEGINNING HYMN: "Majesty" J. Hayford © 1981

Majesty! Worship His majesty!
Unto Jesus be all glory, honour 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.

CCLI Song # 1527 -- Jack Hayford © 1981 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.

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#### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

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

Amen.

Our God expresses graciously in His Word: whoever hides their sins will not do well;

But all who confess and turn away from them will experience mercy. [Prov. 28:13]

[Brief silence for prayerful reflection]

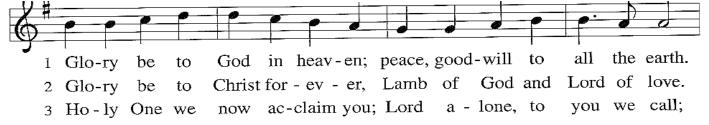
God of grace, love and communion:

We confess that we have failed to love You with our whole heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. We ignore Your commandments, stray from Your ways, and follow other 'gods', whom we have believed will give us happiness. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and raise us up to new life, to a wise and good and true life full of Your grace, that we may serve You faithfully and give honour to Your holy Name. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for You and for His sake, forgives you all of your sins. To all who believe in Christ, He comes to live in them, so that all may have life in His name. So in the place of Christ and by His Holy Word, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE [Tune: Ode To Joy]





Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be-fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re-store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in-her-it, glo-ry be to God on high!

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank You for revealing Your Son Jesus on the mountain in glory before entering into His suffering and death. Give us faith to recognize Him as Your dear Son, and strengthen us when we must suffer as His followers, until we come to share in His glory. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### **GOD'S WORD**

#### The Old Testament: Exodus 34: 29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3: 12-18

[St. Paul writes:] Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### CHOIR ANTHEM: "This Is My Beloved Son"

Long long ago the prophets spoke to ancient generations

But in these days God shows His ways and through the Son He's spoken

The Son is in God's likeness, in glory and in brightness, in high authority.

You are my Son, beloved One, You are my first begotten,

The heav'ns You made, Your had has laid the very earth's foundation

The Son is in God's likeness, in glory and in brightness, in high authority.

The Son, your sins has lightened;

He sits upon the right hand of pow'r and majesty.

The first begotten One, this is my high and Holy Son.

One earth one day, John, Peter, James followed Him up a mountain.

Before their eyes, His face would shine with light as bright as morning.

His garment shone and brightened

The disciples were so frightened, their faces on the ground.

A bright cloud overwhelmed them, a voice came forth to tell them,

"Now listen to this One, for this is My beloved Son."

You are my Son, beloved One, You are my first begotten,

The heav'ns You made, Your had has laid the very earth's foundation

The Son is in God's likeness, in glory and in brightness, in high authority,

The Son, your sins has lightened;

He sits upon the right hand of pow'r and majesty. For this is My beloved Son.

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The Holy Gospel: St. Mark 9: 2-9

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 9th chapter: Glory to You, O Lord.

Six 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, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then 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.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As 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.

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.

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE





#### **MESSAGE**

#### THE OFFERING is received

#### PRAYERS:

Holy God, Mighty Lord, gracious Father, in the transfiguration of Jesus, we see your glory. And we see what everyone joining to Jesus on the mount will be like. Thank you for his suffering and death, which transfigures our own. Thank you for the vision of his glory, which he lovingly pours upon all who believe in His name by faith.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great!

Transfigure your Church. Make her a place where all may eat and drink in your presence and live. Make her a place where glorious truth of the Gospel is confidently shared so that all may come to be fashioned into the image and likeness of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great!

Transfigure this congregation: the people and commitments; decisions and vision; worship, service, and fellowship. Make our every word and action remain honest, faithful and clear, through which the radiance of Jesus' love shines unimpeded upon everyone we meet.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great!

Transfigure avenues of serving, teaching, evangelizing, and witnessing, so all they say and do points to Jesus and bears His redeeming presence to the world.

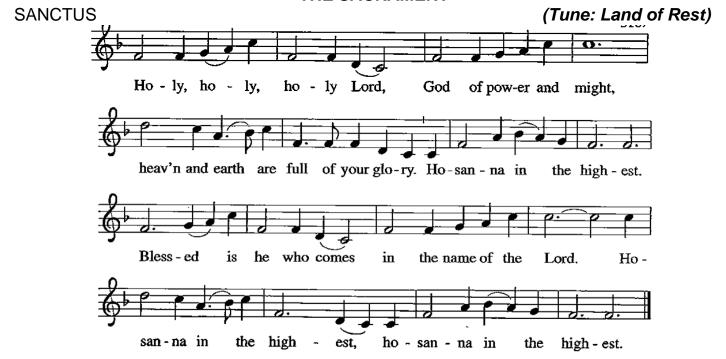
Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great!

Transfigure the lives of all who sit in the shadows of suffering and sorrow – especially: {we pray for ....}. Grant that Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, may rise upon them with healing in his wings. Let sorrow be turned to joy; fear into hope; and despair into faith in your love.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great!

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant to us, dear Father, for the sake of your Son, our Beautiful Savior Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.





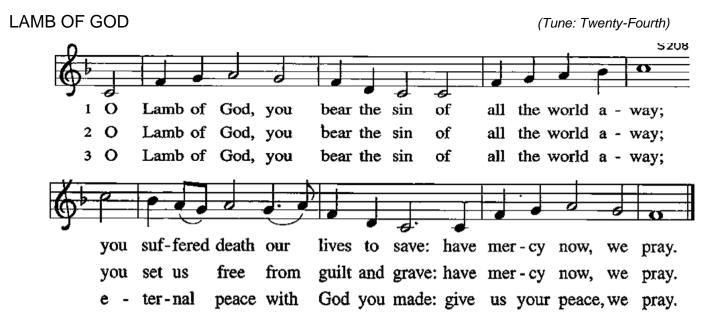
THE LORD'S PRAYER: "Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name...."

#### 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.



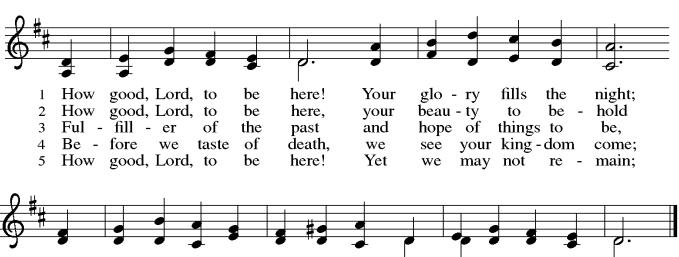
#### HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

For those who have need, please feel free to stand at the rail if kneeling is difficult. The common cup and trays of individual glasses are available. Gluten free wafers are also available. Light purple glasses of Communion wine mixed with water are in the centre of the trays



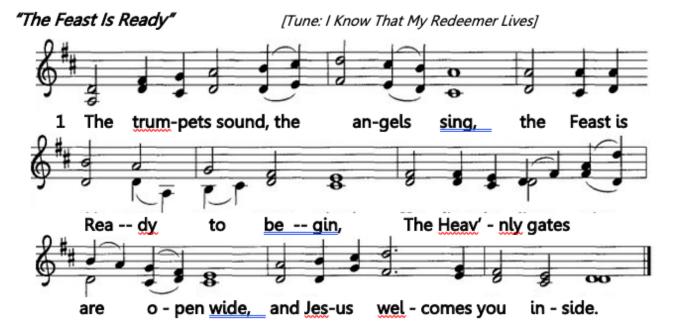


#### "How Good Lord To Be Here"



your face and gar-ments, like the sun, shine with un-bor-rowed light. where Mo-ses and E-li-jah stand, your mes-sen-gers of old. we hail your bod-y glo-ri-fied and our re-demp-tion see. we long to hold the vi-sion bright and make this hill our home. but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

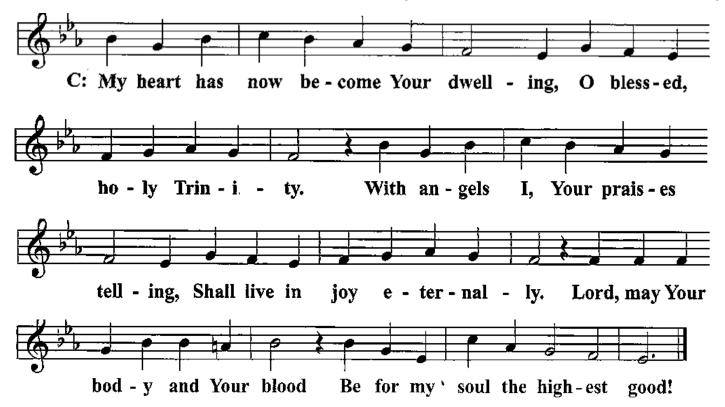
https://concordiafaith.org/worship/02-19-23-transfiguration-sunday/ public domain



- 2 He spreads His Table with good things, oh taste the peace and joy He brings, He fills you up with Love divine, He turns your water into wine.
  - 3 The hungry heart He satisfies, and offers poor His Paradise, Now hear all Heav'n and earth applaud, the wondrous goodness of the Lord!
    - 4 Sing thankful songs of pure delight, come revel in God's Love and Light, Dine at the Table of the King, the Feast is ready to begin! Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950 (c) Make Way Music, ELW alt. Tune: Duke Street



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#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, in the beginning You created light and at the right time You sent Your Son to be the true Light of the world. Through the gift of Jesus' body and blood, shine in our hearts and lives, so that we may share in the inheritance of all the saints in the light. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION:**

Let is praise the Lord!

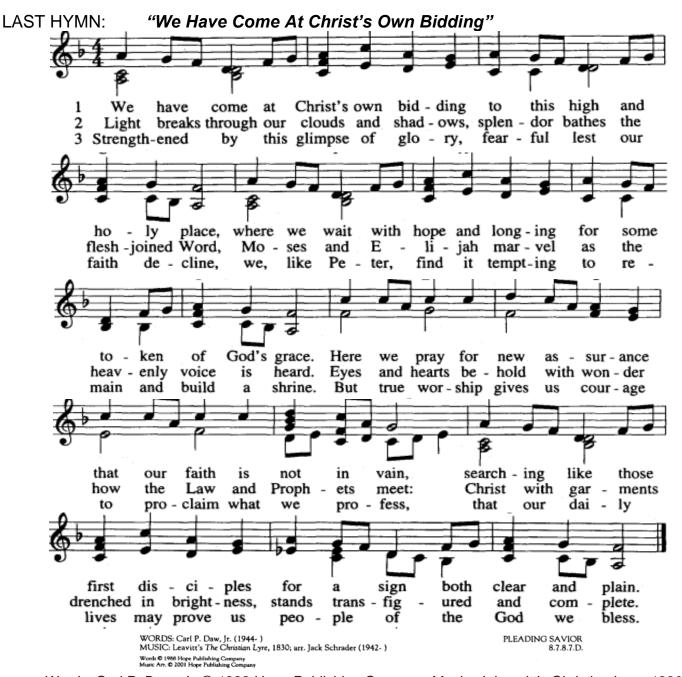
#### Thanks be to God!

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.



Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr, © 1988 Hope Publishing Company Music: J. Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1830 https://hymnary.org/hymn/WAR2003/page/270

**LITURGY NOTE:** This BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CREATIVE WORSHIP SETTING is adapted from the Lutheran Church of Australia website for worship & Holy Communion setting 10 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Fortress, © 1997, 2006 & 2011: all hymns & music such as Hymn to Joy, Unser Herrscher, Land of Rest, Twenty Fourth & O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen have been used and re-printed with limited permission from www.hymnary.org.

### The Transfiguration of our Lord Mark 9:2-9 "Stop, Look & Listen" February 11, 2024

I don't like heights. I can go up on a ladder, but it's not my favourite thing. It's enough stringing up Christmas lights on the eave troughs. But, I love rollers coasters. I like big Ferris Wheels. It's even better if I get stuck up on the very top of the wheel. I'll start to rock it back and forth. Why? I think it's important at times to face the fear of heights. We aren't any more vulnerable up in the air than we are on the ground. Mountain top views are as important as the deep valleys. We need both. We need the impressive with the mundane. We learn to appreciate and treasure both. Mountain top experiences come with great comfort, or great victory. Excitement, rising above the world, the pinnacle of spiritual closeness with God. This does help build an aspect of our faith. Gives us the big picture of our relationship with God. That God is powerful, Jesus IS really with you deep inside. It feels like a rescue, that God's got you. You are loved and valued. The disciples respond to the mountain top view of Jesus with great fear. The disciples reveal our normal faith journey in life: In the early years, we start out with many fears and worries. Our minds and hearts are all over the place. At the elementary school view, we go to church with family and learn from the adults. At the middle school view, we start to make sense of faith and see it tested in our peer groups. At the high school level, we see faith abused, hidden, maybe not even believed, Or so many different views passing off as religion. What's true, who is God, what do other people believe? At the college, university, or working career level, we take what we learn and start to see what it's like to live it. This is why the time in between elementary and middle school is a prime time To train kids in the church about their faith and identity. They easily believe and get to know who they are before they're tested and tragically rejected. As we all know what its like to feel rejected by someone the 1st time. Otherwise, if our faith in Jesus isn't connected to our identity, Our opinions and ideas will become our identity & that's dangerous. [We're seeing that A LOT now.] When we know and trust Jesus and experience how He will always remain a strong part of who we are, the wounds from others heal. Jesus shows Himself for Who He is when He's transfigured—that's metamorphosis in the Greek. A great word, a change inside is seen through the body. An internal power made visible on the outside. Jesus' divine, God-like, Heavenly self-inside His Flesh and Blood and Bone Body Is seen -- His skin glows like a star. His clothes dazzle and become a blinding light. As if that isn't enough to see, God the Father from a bright cloud resting overhead speaks: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" The last time God spoke was about a year or so earlier at His Baptism. God said there "you are my son". Now He says "this is my son." God is publicly approving Jesus' identity to the disciples. Listen to the Son of God. He is the living active Word from the beginning with a Body. The same Word they heard all their lives in the synagogue. Listen to His Word. He is all you'll ever need. Moses shows up next to Jesus. God allows Moses appear from beyond the grave; Elijah comes – 800 or so years prior a chariot of fire whisked him off into Heaven. Moses is the Law, Elijah is a prophet; Jesus is both. He completes what the Law couldn't fill and gives life to the prophets' work. Jesus is unity in diversity – as He is one Body, all of His believers are many members. This is all quite terrifying to Peter, James, and John. And, Peter does what he usually does when he's afraid, he starts talking. When my parents got worried when I was growing up, they'd talk non-stop. My mom talked out loud, my dad did quiet, self-talk.

"Talk yourself down" was his regular phrase. I always asked why? "when you talk to yourself you get all the right answers" they'd say. Not sure if it's true, but self-talk is more calming that nervous chatter. Usually. Peter keeps up the fast talk and tries convincing them they needs tents to keep this all-great imagery intact. House this magnificent [scary] glory up on the mountain alone. This won't help. Jesus is the Temple not made with human will torn down and rebuilt on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Jesus is God's gift to the world. Once the talking ends, God tells them to listen. Listening is critical to understanding our faith. We can be so stubborn and set in our ways about many things, and think of ourselves as experts on all kinds of topics. Politics, how to coach football or the Ice dogs better than the coaches. How our family members or a friend is messing up their life and if they just listened to us, then they would be better off.

So arrogant runs our human pride. Even if we're right, we are wrong in how we present it. The truth is, we have things to learn ourselves. Even if someone else really does need our help and advice, the best way to help is listen to them. Not just for info, but to hear their story. Listening is almost a lost art. Listening leads to understanding. When we listen to help, we learn how to make a situation more just. If we reflect on our own lives and listen, we learn why we get depressed or discouraged. If we pay attention, we learn why we do the same thing wrong over and over. With understanding, comes wisdom in problem solving. The # 1 duty of a disciple in Christ is listening to Him. The stubborn sinner in us likes the voice of fear and worry. We feel in charge, thinking we can overcome and be better all on our own. Maybe you're afraid of the unknown, scared of the future, and you tell God all the things He should do to resolve that. When we listen to Jesus, we hear Him say love God and love your neighbor. We hear Jesus telling us that His way has suffering, And in His death, you have a new, real life to live each day. When we listen to Jesus, we're in wonder and amazement by the unexpected. He draws us into a much greater story than the lies circulating. When we listen to Jesus, we recognize His voice even in unexpected places. Listening became a great ministry tool as I spent time at a low income govt housing unit In downtown Winnipeg. In fact, I called it a "listening and prayer ministry." About 9 of us sat in a circle. We began with a brief passage from Scripture.

Everyone shared a bad thing and a good thing in their week.

We all listened to the stories. Many indigenous people and the cruelty of the residential schools. Loneliness, depression, drug addictions, job losses, family deaths at early ages. This led to one on-sight baptism. I learned from listening how blessed and privileged and supported I am by God –The best help is using my blessing and privilege and support to work for them. Help them advocate. Tell their story. Heal. Grow. Develop of Gospel believing people. Maybe put themselves out there and draw strength from Jesus. Listening gave me understanding and a need for humility. God was showing me that the life of Jesus is transfigured in the lives of all these people In the walks of life we never even imagined. In our serving we are served. In our listening we are heard. "Listening to Jesus" means the disciples must go down the mountain --back into the ordinary world to continue His labour of love, healing and overturning the rut of religious oppression. Jesus doesn't want them telling anyone about it. They can listen, but not tell. Jesus must be heard. His silence will speak volumes. Another mountain remains for Him alone. A smaller one, but a cruel one. Golgotha. The place of the skull. A mountain of death. This is where real glory comes in brutalizing suffering. Jesus is transfigured not in Heavenly glow but in Blood flow. You see the power of perfect Godly weakness in a bleeding, tortured human. Glory and glow have their place. But suffering comes 1st. The cross must be carried And when its carried,

We are carried. We are on His shoulders. And He's engraved each one of us on the palms of His hands.

His cross is engraved onto our hands when we touch the Bread of His Body.

When we eat, drink, we have Him as high as the Heavens and as low as he deepest sea.

We listen,

We face all fears in Him,

And the Spirit welcomes us into a life of listening to Jesus,

wherever we may find Him speaking.

Amen.

Name: Date:
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## Do not fear; I will help you (isaiah 41:13)

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Holy Spirit Peace right hand Love Jesus storm TrustGod no fear

save me uphold you Faith Savior

# CHRIST'S CAFÉ

## YOU ARE INVITED!!

**Every Sunday!!** 

Hope to see you downstairs for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

(during Sunday School & CHAT)

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact:

Judy Mason 905-641-7546

