

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Transfiguration of Our Lord / Last Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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INTRODUCTION

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Love the Lord"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"Ten Thousand Reasons"

Please stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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

Amen.

Please be seated

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “With Every Act of Love”

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION: “Thy Word”

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

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

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

⁴Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.”

¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The

chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

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

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.

⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand if you are able

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

Glory to you, O Lord

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Amazing Love" (You Are My King)

Please stand if you are able

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 OF INTERCESSION

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the ministry of the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for congregations near and far, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, seas and skies, and creatures seen and unseen, that all may be guided by your Holy Spirit to be stewards of our earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For firefighters and police officers, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and corporate executives, and leaders of governments, that through their insight and patience, peace and justice prevail throughout the world (*especially*), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*), that as Christ was transfigured on the mountaintop, sickness will be turned into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into assurance, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For companions who accompany us on our journeys through life, for this community of faith that supports us, and for guidance during difficult times, that we see the glory of God revealed around us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our days, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERING HYMN

“Change My Hear O God”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,

receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "All the People Said Amen"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Praise Team

Greeters: Ron & Joni Mehlhop

Ushers: George & Kathy Larson

Lector: Joann Haglund

Hospitality Hosts: Praise Team

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week: Attendance: Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018: 9:00am 72

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

February 12 thru February 18, 2018

Monday	2/12	9:00am	Women's Devotion at Pat Beckers
		1:00 pm	Pinochle
		1:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/13	9:00am	Quilters
		Noon-2:00	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	2/14	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Pot Luck
		6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
		7:30 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	2/15	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	2/16	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	2/18	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

BLESSING BOX donations from last week's Blessing Box was \$199 which will be directed to Feed My Starving Children.

YEAR END OFFERING STATEMENTS are in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your statement and offering envelopes for 2018.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN The date is set!! Please join us in packing meals at Feed My Starving Children on Thursday, April 12 from 12 noon-2pm in Coon Rapids. Those interested in car-pooling will meet at Bethesda Lutheran at 9:30 am. Registration is required so please email the church with the names of those interested in participating. If packing isn't for you, but you are interested in supporting a special donation from Bethesda Lutheran of Malmo, consider any or all of the following opportunities: 1. Blessing box offering in February and March. 2. Mark your envelope with a special donation for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). There are over 15 people already registered; sign up soon!

LENTEN CANTATA Singers cordially invited to participate in Isle Community Lenten Cantata "*Come to the Cross and Remember*" REHEARSALS: Sundays in Lent, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Feb. 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, at Faith Lutheran Church, Isle, with performance on Good Friday, March 30, 7:30 pm. For more information contact: 320 676-3161.

POCKET PRAYER SQUARES There are miniature versions of prayer shawls that are small enough to fit in a pocket or purse. The crafter infuses each stitch with prayer with the intention to provide love & goodwill to whoever receives it. Feel free to take one from the basket in the Narthex for anyone in need of prayer. If you can knit or crochet, there are directions by the basket & completed ones can be placed in the nurse's office.

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION We are looking for volunteers to pick up a church member from Onamia Healthcare Center on Sunday's to attend our church service. Signup sheet will be in the secretary's office.