

# Sunday Worship Bulletin

## **TRANSFIGURATION**

10:00 a.m.  
February 11,  
A.D. 2018



## Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA  
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Rev. David Riley, Pastor

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***Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM***

### **WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD**

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

***Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35***

## The Order of Morning Worship

**TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS:** The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

### AS WE GATHER

This day ends the Epiphany season and prepares us for Lent. Jesus has been revealing His true nature through His words and actions, and on the Mount of Transfiguration three disciples see His glory revealed as transfiguring light. Moses and Elijah appear with Him, talking about His departure in Jerusalem. But our Lord then commands the disciples not to tell about the event until after Easter. Because we live after His resurrection, Paul writes in the Epistle, we recognize Jesus' true glory in going to the cross for us, for God has "shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

✠ PRELUDE: Improvisation on *'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern'*

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **411**: *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

✠ INVOCATION, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: When Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, Peter said,

**C: "Rabbi, it is good that we are here."**

P: But we were not present at that time. Moses "put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze" at the glory fading from his face.

**C: But now, "We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed."**

P: In the present time, we see our Lord Jesus Christ coming to us in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. Let us hear God's Word, respond in words of faith, and join saints and angels in singing the praises of our glorious Savior.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we often forget Your gracious presence and guiding. We are by nature sinful and unclean and, relying on ourselves, have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. By action and inaction, thoughtless words, and failure to profess the faith within us, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For Jesus' sake, forgive us, open our eyes to Your presence with us each day and especially as we gather to receive His body and blood, and lead us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, who revealed the true nature of His glory by dying for us and rising to give us new life. 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.

**C: Amen.**

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

***(Be Seated)***

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 34:29–35 (Moses' face shines after being in God's presence.)

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

✠ EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:6

(We need not fear being near God as Israel did at Mount Sinai.)

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the

old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

✠ **HOLY GOSPEL:** Mark 9:2–9 (Jesus is transfigured in the presence of three disciples.)

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

**C: Glory be to You, O Lord.**

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to You, O Christ.**

✠ **STATEMENT of FAITH:** Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**(Be Seated)**

✠ HYMN of the DAY No. **413**: “O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair”

✠ SERMON: “Look to the Light” Mark 9:2-9

## **Offering**

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

CHOIR ANTHEM: “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” Michael Praetorius

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people in their various needs.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You sent Your Son to be our Savior. Bless all who proclaim His true glory in going to the cross as the atonement for our sins. Grant that His light may shine through us here in our congregation, wherever people of faith gather around Word and Sacrament, and through Your servants everywhere in their public and private lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord over all, who has placed the world's leaders in power, give them opportunity and guidance that they may strive for peace among the nations and rededicate themselves to human liberty and justice for their citizens. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Holy Spirit, bless artists and tradespeople, farmers and ranchers, scientists and technicians; use the gifts You have given them to open our eyes to understand Your good creation and share its blessings. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, guide and protect armed forces deployed and police, fire, and first responders at home. Give them courage and compassion so that we all may live in peace and dignity. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Loving Lord, hear the spoken and silent prayers of those unknown to us—the lonely and forgotten in society, those in broken homes, and all who need nurture, justice, and dignity. Answer them according to Your gracious will. Likewise, we pray for those near and dear to us. Use us to surround them with Your love, that they may know Your presence to heal and comfort. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, use the Word we have heard and the Sacrament we shall receive to strengthen the faith the Spirit has graciously placed within us. Grant us to celebrate the feast, even as we place all these petitions before You, knowing that Your answers are better than our prayers. Receive them all for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## ***Service of the Sacrament***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who at His transfiguration revealed His glory to His disciples that they might be strengthened to proclaim His cross and resurrection and with all the faithful look forward to the glory of life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God by heav'nly hosts adored, God of power, Lord of might, In Your glory infinite: Sing hosanna to the Lord; Blest is He, the Coming One. Sing hosanna, one and all; His eternal peace has won.**

### ✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: 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."

✠ PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray: **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when and you will pick up a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **641**: "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

✠ POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

✠ BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☐ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

✠ FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

P: Today marks the end of the Epiphany season, and in a few days we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday. It is traditional to mute our joy during Lent by not singing Alleluias. We say our "farewell to Alleluia" as we sing the final hymn.

✠ CLOSING HYMN No. **417**: " *Alleluia, Song of Gladness* "

✠ SILENT PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE: Trumpet Tune in D Major

Henry Purcell

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Worship Leaders – Paul Brose & Bill  
Schneeloch

Acolyte – Daniel Provost

Lay Reader – Vicki Riley

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Grandma Sally Sienkiewicz's Birthday tomorrow and in loving memory of PopPop Willard Sienkiewicz on the anniversary of his death from Isaac, Alex, Meaghan, Sarah, Michael, Emily, Sophie, Jennie, Adam, Emma and Ellie.

***Offerings for February 4:***

Needed to meet the Budget \$3,304.77

Collected \$1,992.00

Deficit \$1,312.77

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Exodus 34:29–35, 2 Corinthians 3:12–13; 4:1–6, Mark 9:2–9

The Face of Jesus Christ Reveals the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God  
It was a hard thing for Israel to see Moses and come near to him, when "the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God" (Exodus 34:29–30). Therefore, after "he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai," Moses "put a veil over his face" (Exodus 34:32–33). Only the Word of the Gospel lifts the veil, and "only through Christ is it taken away" (2 Corinthians 3:14). Thus are we able to behold "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ," Who is "the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4–6). For the Law and the prophets are all fulfilled in Him. Therefore, "listen to Him," and fix your sights on "Jesus only" (Mark 9:7–8).

2018 MID-WEEK LENTEN SERIES: "The Gardens of Lent"

In this season of Lent, Pastor will take you to nine stops on a tour of gardens described in the pages of Holy Scripture. We will begin in the Garden of Eden. Then we will make our way to the Garden Gethsemane to Jesus Christ's garden of glory and finally to paradise. Selected texts from Genesis, the Gospels, and Revelation will reveal to us the Gospel promise found in each glorious location.

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018 - "The Garden of Promise" Genesis 3:15

(Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be offered.)

February 21, 2018 - "The Garden of Proclamation" Mark 4:26-29

February 28, 2018 - "The Garden of Repentance" Luke 13:1-9

March 7, 2018 - "The Garden of Passion" Luke 22:39-44

March 14, 2018 – "The Garden of Peace" John 19:38-42

March 21, 2018 - "The Garden of Paradise" Revelation 22:1-6

On Wednesdays, the Services will be held at 11 AM and 7 PM. A Lunch will follow the morning service.