

Transfiguration of Our Lord Last Sunday after Epiphany

February 19th, 2023

9:15am - Hybrid Worship



Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

2725 Concord Dr, Florissant, MO 63033

Find us online: www.lc-livingchrist.org

The Word has been made real flesh. We are constantly reminded of Jesus' very real humanity throughout scripture: "who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness." (Phil. 2:6-7).

We remember also how God chooses to dwell not in halls of power, but is born as a baby in an ordinary village. The Divine Presence dwells where we least expect it. For those who awaken to the true promise of the divine, a different way will be taken...sending us out in ways we least expect, by other roads.

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

Welcome! If you came as a guest today, we hope you leave as a friend. May this worship service surround you with the love of God through Christ and fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Invitation to Communion: We welcome all to commune at LCLC. It is not our table, nor this congregation's table, nor our denomination's table. It is the table of Jesus Christ. By his invitation there is a place for everyone. We believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine that forgives sin, nourishes faith, and calls us to be witnesses to the gospel.

Notes about our worship service: Guidance is printed in *italics* throughout. "P" indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; "L" indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; "C" and parts in **boldface** indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation. You may also follow along with the service by looking at the screen in the front of the sanctuary. Liturgical pieces are set to familiar Christmas tunes. This liturgy is provided by the Eastern Missouri Conference of the Central States Synod. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE

"Quiet Devotion"

R. Kevin Boesinger

WELCOME

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Thus says our God:

C: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

In Thee is Gladness

ELW #867

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the LORD" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.¹⁴To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L: The Word of God still speaks.

C: Thanks be to God.

Bell Choir

"Wondrous Love"

Psalm: Psalm 2

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

L: Why are the nations ¹ in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

C: Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?

L: "Let us break their ¹ yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us.

C:"God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.

L: Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

C: "As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."

L: Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

C:Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for ¹ your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.

L: **You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."**

C: And now, you ¹ kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

L:¹¹Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

C:¹²lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.

Happy are all who take refuge in God!

Second Reading: Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

L: The Word of God still speaks.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 17th chapter vs 1-9

Glory to you, O Lord.

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration. ¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON **Pastor Matt Helfrich**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh Wondrous Type, Oh Vision Fair

ELW#316

Apostles' 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

Prayers of Intercession

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats (*locally threatened waters or lands may be named*). Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor (*name*) and local leaders, our governor (*name*) and state legislators, our president (*name*) and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

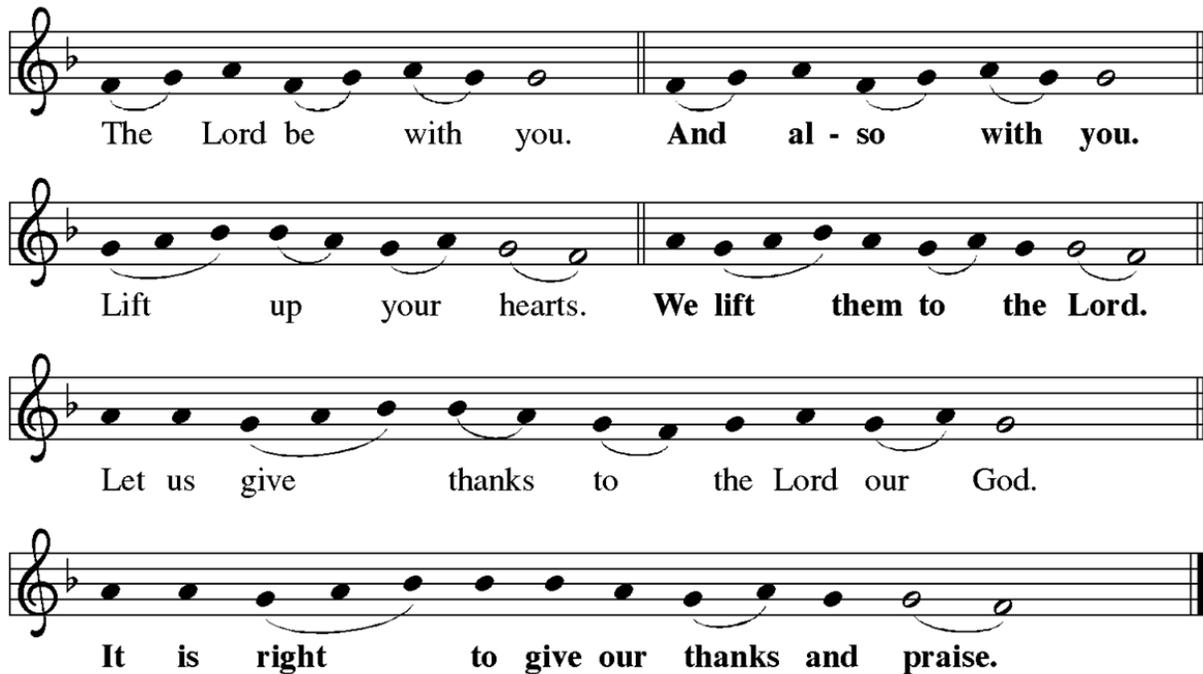
C: And also with you.

Share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or another form of greeting.

Offering Prayer

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY



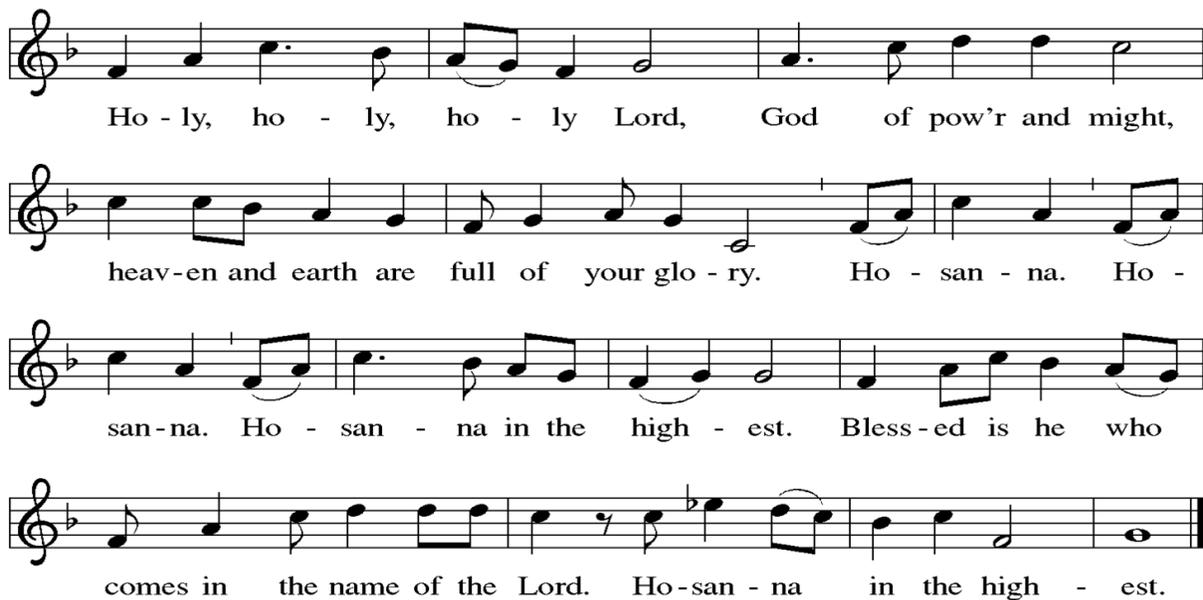
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth, the hosts of heaven and all creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

Illuminating God, source of creation, our salvation and our hope, we praise you for your creative labor, bearing expectations for life and love. When we strayed from your path and chose cruelty and despair, you spoke to us through unexpected prophets: Isaiah envisioned a blossoming desert; Mary proclaimed a world turned upside down; John the Baptist cried out

for repentance. At this expectant hour, your Son Jesus came to bring us extraordinary love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life among us, his death as one of us, and his resurrection, the first of all of us, we anticipate his coming in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal we share: that we may work for justice, build hope for your already but not yet reign, and share the anticipated love and joy of your Son. All glory and honor is yours, in your holy creation, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Lamb of God

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

DISTRIBUTION

Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine. You may come forward to receive communion at the altar or partake with prepackaged elements at your seat. However communion is given and received, we trust Jesus is present in the bread and cup we share as a gathered community.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“ Beautiful Savior”

ELW #838

Post-communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you God’s grace into life everlasting.

Amen

Prayer after Communion

P: Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Alleluia, Song of Gladness ELW#318

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Hymn to peace" David Paxton

Announcements for the week of 2/18/23

1. **Please remember to bring your food donations for TEAM. Please see the set up in the great room. See Bill Kaepfel for more details.**
2. Please come out to support the **Girl Scouts at the Cookie Booth on February 25 @ 10am** here at LCLC.
3. **Ash Wednesday** February 22 @7pm
4. **Congregational Vitality Team (CVT)** are in the process of planning our annual spring community Easter Event and.....**WE NEED HELP !!!!!!!** Please consider volunteering to help with:
 - Obtain Thrivent Funding
 - Purchase Easter egg hunt supplies
 - Prepare Easter eggs
 - Manage Easter egg hunt
 - Assist with food/drink purchase, preparation, and distribution
 - Plan, purchase supplies, and assist with cake walk
 - Coordinate with neighboring communities with event planning**Additional assistance as identified *SAVE the DATE: Saturday, April 1***

February 19, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Matt
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepfel
Lector: Angela Bennett
Zoom & Slides: Rod Wallace
Musician: Greg Ott
Usher: Glenn Albers & Ann Schultz
Greeter: Jann Mueller
Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker

February 26, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Matt
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Dave Endorf
Zoom & Slides: Rod Wallace
Musician: David Eggers
Usher: LeVaughn & Sheila Smart
Greeter: Marilyn Wiley
Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer

Coming Up at Living Christ

Monday 2/20	5:00pm Noble Guard
Tuesday 2/21	10:00am Bible Class 11:00am Exercise 7:00pm Bible Class (ZOOM)
Wednesday 2/22	
Thursday 2/23	11:00am Exercise
Friday 2/24	
Saturday 2/25	5:30pm Noble Guard
Sunday 2/26	8:00am Vocal Choir; 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Ed. Hour 11:00am True Vine Church of God