

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY:  
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 11th, 2024



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
St. Louis, MO  
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## SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Hymn ----- Jesus Take Us to the Mountain**

CWS 712

1. Jesus, take us to the mountain  
Where, with Peter, James, and John,  
We are dazzled by your glory,  
Light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night  
By the vision of that sight.
2. What do you want us to see there  
That your close companions saw?  
Your divinity revealed there  
Fills us with the selfsame awe.  
Clothed in flesh like ours you go,  
Matched to meet our deadliest foe.
3. What do you want us to hear there  
That your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the voice from heaven  
Says of the incarnate Word:  
“Listen, listen, ev’ryone;  
This is my beloved Son!”
4. Take us to that other mountain  
Where we see you glorified,  
Where you shouted, “It is finished!”  
Where for all the world you died.  
Hear the stunned centurion:  
“Truly this was God’s own Son!”

5. **We who have beheld your glory,  
Risen and ascended Lord,  
Cannot help but tell the story,  
All that we have seen and heard,  
Say with Peter, James, and John:  
“You are God’s beloved Son!”**

*Stand.*

**M:** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**CONFESSON OF SINS**

**M:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

*Lord, Have Mercy*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**Hymn ----- How Good, Lord, to Be Here**

CW 95

1. *(Children)* How good, Lord, to be here!  
Your glory fills the night;  
Your face and garments, like the sun,  
Shine with unborrowed light.
2. *(Children)* How good, Lord, to be here  
Your beauty to behold,  
Where Moses and Elijah stand,  
Your messengers of old.
3. **Fulfiller of the past,  
Promise of things to be,  
We hail your body glorified  
And our redemption see.**
4. **Before we taste of death,  
We see your kingdom come;  
We long to hold the vision bright  
And make this hill our home.**
5. *(Children)* How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
But since you bid us leave the mount,  
Come with us to the plain.

*Prayer of the Day*

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through

Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Be seated.*

## THE WORD

### First Lesson ----- 2 Kings 2:1–12a

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah was traveling with Elisha from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

The sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?”

Then he said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here because the LORD has sent me to Jericho.”

But he said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?”

He said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

But he said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.

Then fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood and watched them from a distance, while the two of them were standing at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, folded it together, and struck the water. The water divided to the right and to the left. Then the two of them crossed on dry land.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask me for whatever I can do for you before I am taken from you.”

Then Elisha said, “Let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.”

He said, “You have asked for a difficult thing. If you see me being taken from you, it will surely be yours. But if not, then it will not.”

While they were walking and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire, and horses of fire came and separated them. So Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha was watching and crying out, “My father! My father! Israel’s chariot and its charioteers!” Then he did not see him anymore.

<b>1</b> From the mount of our Lord's glory, Other mountaintops appear. Peaks in concert sing this story: Our salvation has drawn near. Shine, O Lord, from every height Rays of wisdom, peace, and light!	<b>2</b> Moses from Mount Sinai preaches Words in stone that shatter hearts. Down into the depths he reaches, Bidding us from sin depart. Rise, repent, O Christian, see Light and life on Calvary!
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**3** As Elijah battles evil,  
Truth and lies on Carmel fight,  
Christians strive against the devil;  
Warfare is our daily plight.  
Grant us peace midst war and loss,  
From the mount of our Lord's cross.

**Second Lesson ----- 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2**

Therefore, since we have this kind of hope, we act with great boldness. We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the Israelites could not continue to look at the end of the radiance, as it was fading away. In spite of this, their minds were hardened. Yes, up to the present day, the same veil remains when the Old Testament is read. It has not been removed because it is taken away only in Christ. Instead, to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts. But whenever someone 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. But all of

us who reflect the Lord's glory with an unveiled face are being transformed into his own image, from one degree of glory to another. This too is from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Therefore, since we have this ministry as a result of the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged. On the contrary, we have renounced shameful, underhanded methods. We do not operate in a deceitful way, and we do not distort the word of God. Instead, by proclaiming the truth clearly, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

*From the Mount of Our Lord's Glory (st.4,5)*

*Tune: CW 255*

4 Jesus from Mount Calv'ry preaches  
Blood-soaked words that heal our  
                  hearts.

Warfare ends, the battle ceases,  
Peace and hope our Lord imparts.  
Christ, transfixd on Calv'ry's tree,  
Grant that we transfigured be!

5 Here we see salvation's story,  
Here the law has been fulfilled,  
Here is Christ in thorn-crowned  
                  glory,

Here our hearts His peace has  
                  stilled.  
Here, our Lord, upon that height,  
Shines on us as Light of Light!

*Stand.*

**Gospel ----- Mark 9:2-9**

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain where they were alone by themselves. There he was transfigured in front of them. His clothes became radiant, dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them. And Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not

know what to say because they were terrified.

A cloud appeared and overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him."

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

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

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Be seated.*



**Hymn of the Day ----- Down from the Mount of Glory**

CW 97

1. Down from the mount of glory Came Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Recall the wondrous story, Rich gem in sacred Word.  
Again your faith will view him In double glory here;  
The greater homage due him Will in your life appear.
2. Transfigured, Christ, the lowly, Stood radiant in the light,  
Light found in Godhead solely, For human eyes too bright.  
Then came a voice from heaven, Confirmed what here we see;  
The words “my Son” were given To seal his deity.
3. Yet mark this glory hidden! See him the mount descend  
And, by the Father bidden, His willing footsteps bend  
To seek humiliation In deepest depths of woe,  
To suffer degradation No mind can probe or know.
4. Strange how his journey ended! In love that is his fame  
Our Lord again ascended A mount—the hill of shame.  
Upon the cross he proffered Himself to agony;  
His holy soul he offered To set the guilty free.
5. Then hail the double glory Of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
And let the wondrous story Full peace and joy afford!  
The holy mount acclaims him The majesty divine;  
Mount Calvary proclaims him Redeemer—yours and mine.

**Sermon ----- Mark 9:2–9**

*Jesus' Glory Revealed*

*Stand.*



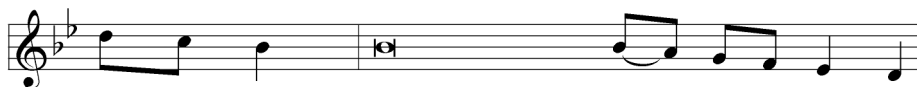
**C:** We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



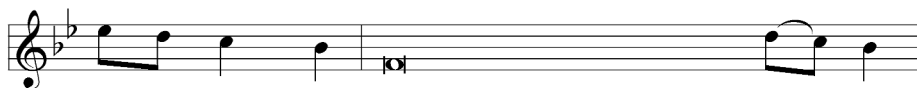
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



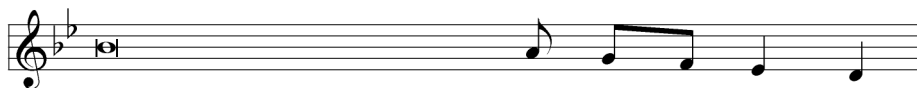
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



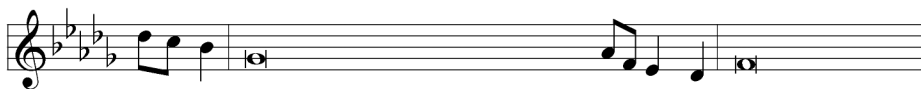
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



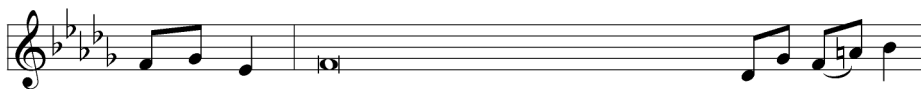
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir-gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be-liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

*Prayer of the Church*

*The minister offers the petitions and the congregation responds with “**Hear our prayer.**”*

Online giving option:  
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Offerings support the spread  
of the Gospel here and around the world.

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, with the appearance of Moses and Elijah at our Lord’s glorious Transfiguration, You reveal to us that the Law and the prophets are fulfilled in Him. Send Your blessing upon all pastors and servants of Your Church, that their preaching and teaching would flow from this right understanding of Christ and His work for our eternal salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty God, grant faithfulness, humility and patience to the sheep of Your flock here at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, that in our various vocations we may strive to love You and our neighbor in all that we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, bless the families of Your Church, that parents would teach the faith to their children and that the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in all households. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty Father, You alone establish all authority on earth. Bless those entrusted with this responsibility both here and abroad, that they would serve with integrity and honor and for the well-being of all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: God of all grace, look with compassion on those who are in need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Grant them relief and comfort through the promise of sharing in eternal glory with Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, You revealed Your glory in the Transfiguration of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who tabernacled among us in the flesh. Open our eyes, that by faith we would see Him continuing to tabernacle among us here in the Divine Service. Grant that we would heed Your admonition to “listen to Him” as He forgives and preserves us at the font, pulpit and altar. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember on this day the glorious manifestation of Your Son’s divinity on the Mount of Transfiguration. Teach us to listen to Jesus and ever fix our eyes on Him and His innocent suffering and death for our forgiveness. By Your grace and mercy, strengthen us to remain faithful in all circumstances of trial, temptation and persecution. Preserve us to the end, that we may die a blessed death believing in Your beloved Son with whom You are well pleased; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Lord’s Prayer*

C: 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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Sanctus*



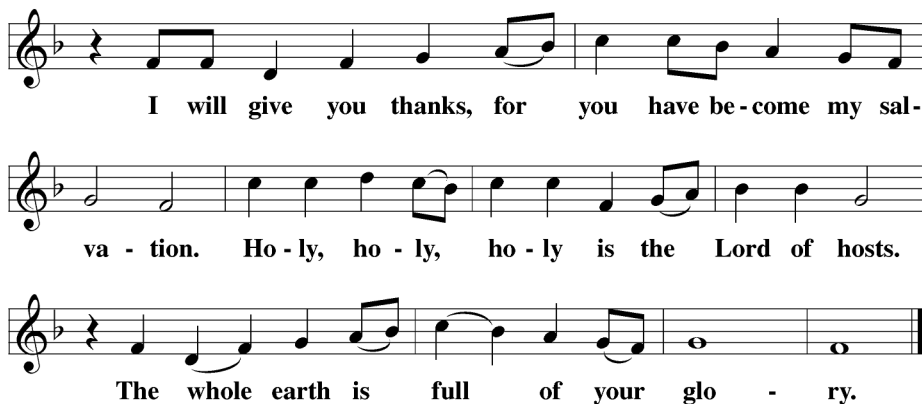
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-  
va-tion. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

### *Words of Institution*

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

### *O Christ, Lamb of God*

### *Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

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

*Be seated.*

#### DISTRIBUTION

*In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.*

*During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:*

#### Hymn ----- How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 79

1. How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hail afar  
The light in Judah shining.  
O David's Son of Jacob's race, My Bridegroom and my King of grace,  
For you my heart is pining.  
Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious, O victorious Prince of graces,  
Filling all the heav'nly places.



2. O highest joy by mortals won, True Son of God and Mary's Son,  
The highborn King of ages!  
In your blest body let me be, E'en as the branch is in the tree,  
Your life my life supplying.  
Sighing, Crying For the savor Of your favor  
Resting never Till I rest in you forever.
3. O mighty Father, in your Son You loved me ere you had begun  
This ancient world's foundation.  
Your Son has made a friend of me, And when in spirit him I see,  
I joy in tribulation.  
What bliss Is this! He is living, To me giving  
Life forever; Nothing me from him can sever.
4. Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend, Are Lord, beginning without end,  
The first and last, eternal!  
And you at length—O glorious grace—Will take me to that holy place,  
The home of joys supernal.  
Amen, Amen! Come and meet me, Quickly greet me! With deep yearning,  
Lord, I look for your returning.
5. Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of music ring  
In God's high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way, Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day  
Till trav'ling days are ended.  
Sing out, Ring out Triumph glorious, O victorious Chosen nation;  
Praise the God of your salvation.

# THANKSGIVING

*Stand.*

*Thank the Lord*



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'-ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.

### *Blessing*

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



### *Be seated.*

#### FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, the Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

### *Alleluia, Song of Triumph*

(Tune: CW 122)

C: Alleluia, song of triumph, sound of joy that cannot die;  
Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;  
Saints adorned in robes of glory join the great angelic cry.

Alleluia we are singing, voicing hymns in pure accord,  
With Christ's holy Church united, justified, redeemed, restored,  
And with all his faithful people raise our songs to praise the Lord.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;  
Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forego.  
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.

May our hymns be filled with longing—hear us, Holy Trinity—  
As we look to your blest Easter, here, and then eternally,  
When we shall once more be singing alleluia joyfully!



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*The hymn “From the Mount of Our Lord’s Glory” is written by Chad Bird,  
<https://birdchadlouis.wordpress.com/2014/02/25/a-new-transfiguration-hymn-from-the-mount-of-our-lords-glory/>*

*Cover: “The Transfiguration,” woodcut by Albrecht Altdorfe, c. 1513.*