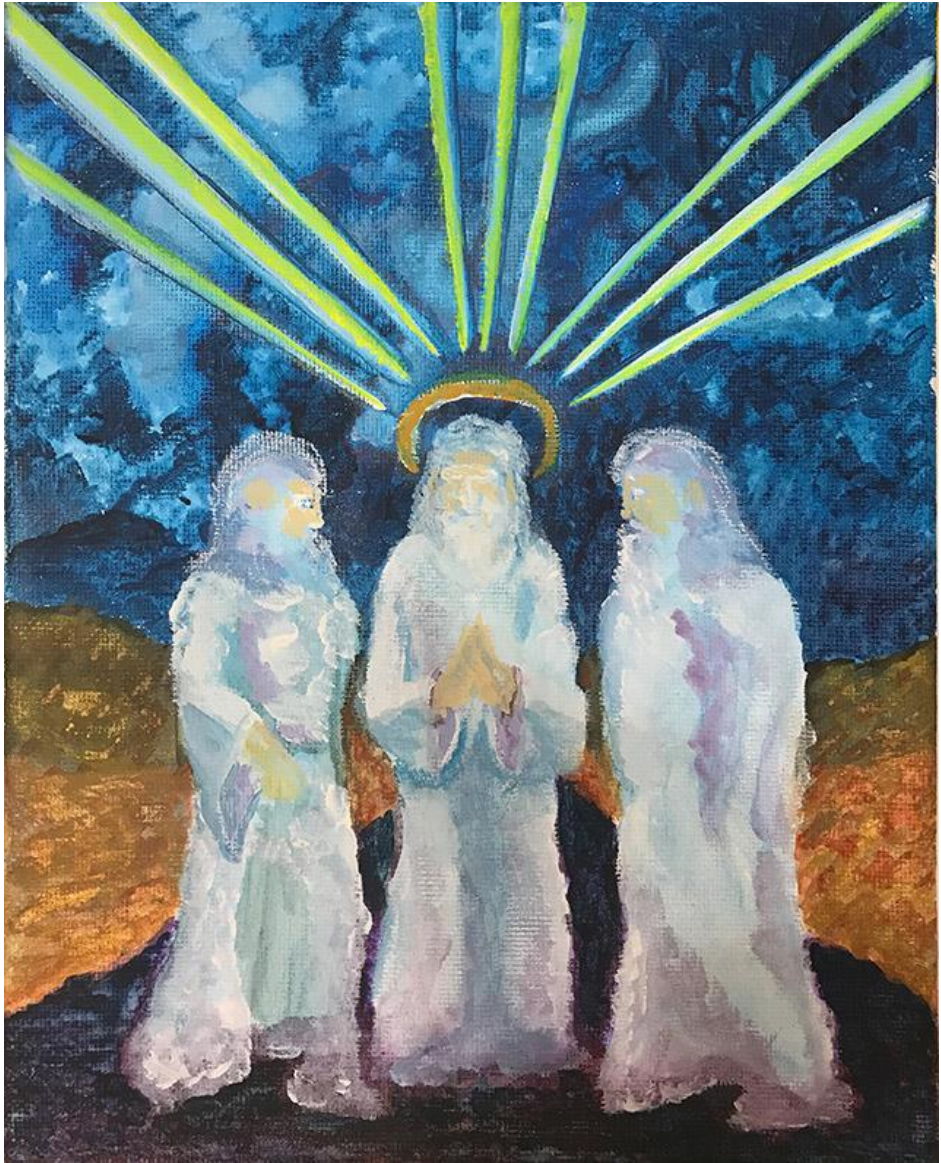


Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & Preschool

Connecting people to Jesus as we gather, grow, and go.



Transfiguration Sunday

February 14, 2021

8:00 & 10:30 am

Welcome to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church!

We greet you in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. We are glad you are worshipping with our family of faith and rejoice with you as God comes to us through His Word this day to bring His gift of forgiveness and life in Jesus.

If you have any questions, please seek out one of the ushers who will be happy to assist you. **Pastor Schultz & Pastor Ada look forward to meeting you at the end of the service.**

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available. Please talk to an usher.

YOUNG CHILDREN We believe that young children need to be brought to Jesus (Mark 10:14); and what better way than to include them in the regular worship life of the congregation! We **DO NOT** have a staffed nursery during church because we **encourage families to worship together.** Children's bulletins and worship activity bags are available to help quietly occupy those children too young to listen to the sermon. Please ask an usher for assistance. Please feel free to use the narthex as a cry room when needed. Monitors and speakers will assist in your participation.

EDUCATION HOUR (currently 9:15-10:15am)

Adult Bible Class: will be studying Christology (The Study of the Person of Christ.)

Sunday School: Classes are offered for children who have turned 3 by September 1 through high school. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating Sunday school classrooms.

Nursery: Until further notice there will NOT be a staffed nursery during the Sunday School hour.

HOLY COMMUNION In Holy Communion we celebrate the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ as He gives us His true body and blood in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. In love for God's Word and in love for God's people, we do not want anyone to receive this blessed gift to their spiritual harm (1 Cor. 11:27-29). **Therefore, anyone who wishes to commune here for the first time and who is not a member of Beautiful Savior or a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, is asked to speak with Pastor Schultz or Pastor Ada before receiving Holy Communion.** Those not communing are still welcome to come receive a blessing.



Rev. Joel Schultz, Senior Pastor
Rev. Michael Ada, Associate Pastor
Vicar Luke Elowsky, Student Pastor

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
13145 S. Blackbob Road, Olathe, KS 66062
Phone: (913) 780-6023 website: www.bslcks.org

Order of Service: Divine Service 4

AS WE GATHER

The Face of Jesus Christ Manifests the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God

It was “*a hard thing*” that Elisha asked, but by his persistence he was able to see the prophet Elijah being taken “*by a whirlwind into heaven.*” Although “*chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them,*” Elisha received Elijah’s cloak and a “*double portion*” of his spirit for preaching the Lord’s Word (2 Kings 2:9–11). It was a hard thing, too, for Israel to see Moses and come near to him, when “*the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God*” (Ex. 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*” (Ex. 34:32–33). Only the Word of the Gospel lifts the veil, and “*only through Christ is it taken away*” (2 Cor. 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 Cor. 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).

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

Anne Krenz Organ

PASTORAL GREETING

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

OPENING HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

LSB 873



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer - less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise; Tri - umph o'er the shades of night.
Joy - less is the day's re - turn Till Thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, Scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
Till they in - ward light im - part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
More and more Thy - self dis - play, Shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Stand

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of your Baptism.)

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

C **Amen.**

Matthew 28:19b

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Psalm 130:3-4

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy...and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

John 20:19-23

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

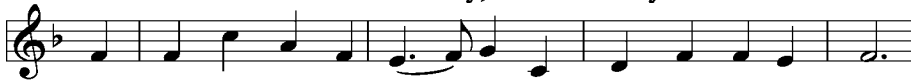
HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in Excelsis ~ ~ (Latin: *Glory to God in the Highest*)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

2 Timothy 4:22

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.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 2:1–12

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please 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. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please 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 sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please 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 sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on

me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Jesus on the Mountain Peak, adapt SATB
arr. Burkhard
Youth Choir

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 3:12–13; 4:1–6

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only 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 what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

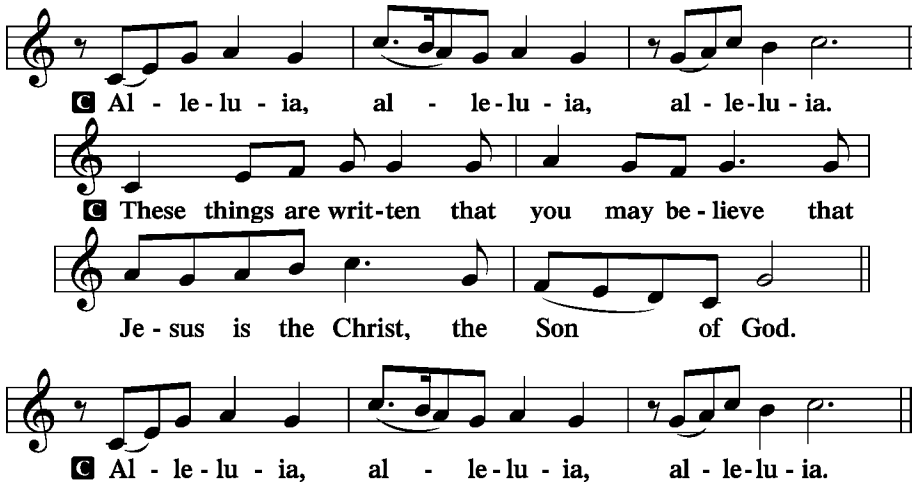
P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL VERSE

John 6:68



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

READING THE FAITH *(as drawn from Luther's Small Catechism)*

P THE APOSTLES' CREED: FIRST ARTICLE

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all that I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Vicar Luke Elowsky

SERMON HYMN

'Tis Good, Lord, to be Here

LSB 414



1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy
2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy
3 Ful - fill - er of the past And
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We
5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet



glo - ry fills the night; Thy face and gar - ments,
beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -
hope of things to be, We hail Thy bod - y
see Thy king - dom come; We long to hold the
we may not re - main; But since Thou bidst us



like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.
glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.
leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

SERMON

Jesus, the Son of God

Mark 9:2-9

Vicar Luke Elowsky

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the baptized, that we would heed our heavenly Father's admonition to listen to His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, as He speaks to us through His Holy Word and Sacraments; and that we would, by grace through faith, behold Him in His glory as He continues to tabernacle among us, delivering forgiveness, life and salvation through the same, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are called and ordained to serve in Christ's stead and by His command, that all their preaching and teaching would flow from the right understanding that all Holy Scripture testifies of Christ and all that He has done, and continues to do, for our eternal salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For parents in every Christian home, that they would pass on the faith to their children by word and deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those who have been placed in authority over us, that they would serve with integrity and honor, having the welfare of all in mind; and for our country, that division, conflict and strife would give way to unity, peace and quietness, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Lord's flock here at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, that we would be granted faithfulness, humility and patience in our various vocations, striving to love God and neighbor in all that we say and do, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those who are sick, hospitalized, recovering, enduring ongoing treatment or suffering in any way, [*especially _____*] that they would know Your peace and receive healing and relief according to Your gracious will; and for those who mourn, [*especially _____*] that they would be comforted by the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who come to the holy altar this day to the Holy Communion of Christ's true body and blood, that receiving the forgiveness of sins, they would be strengthened in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Him, with Him and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

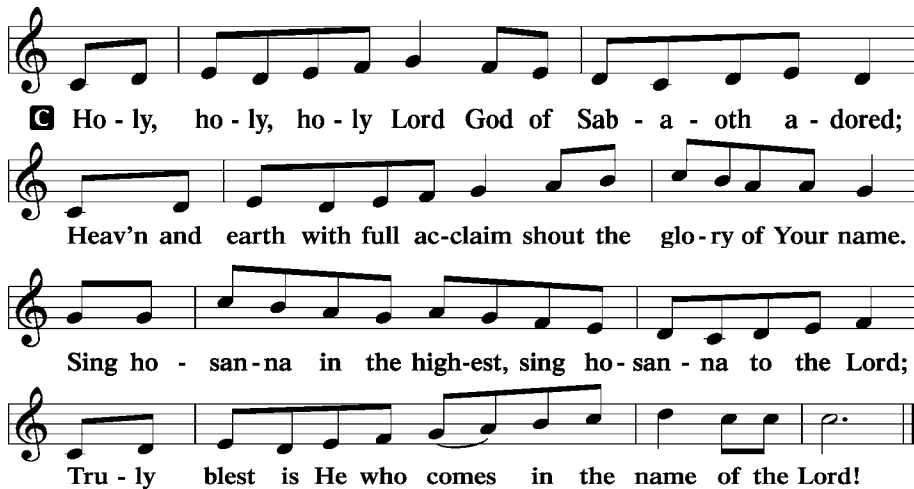
- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.** *2 Timothy 4:22*
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1]*
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *Psalm 136*

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS~~(Latin: Holy, Holy, Holy)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI~~(Latin: Peace of the Lord)

John 20:19

(The pastor here makes a **declaration** of the peace we have with the Lord through the forgiveness offered in this Sacrament. Therefore, we boldly respond **AMEN!** – which means “Yes, yes, this is so!”)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen!**

AGNUS DEI~~(Latin: Lamb of God)

John 1:29

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



INVITATION

P Welcome to the Table of the Lord.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

VISITORS, please read the statement concerning Holy Communion on page 2.

Personal Examination Before Communing

1. Do I believe I am a sinner and am I sorry for my sins?
 2. Do I believe Christ's true body and blood to be present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins?
 3. Do I earnestly intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life?
- (For a longer examination see pages 329-330 of the hymnal.)

Instructions for Communing

The congregation will be ushered forward to stand. You will receive the Body of Jesus from the Pastors and then the Blood of Jesus from the Elder/Vicar. When you are finished, reverence the altar and return to your seat for prayer and meditation.. Those not communing will receive a blessing from the pastor.

Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of each tray and should only be used by those with medical conditions prohibiting the use of wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available from the pastor when you come forward.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
LSB 821



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

5. **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;**
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

You Satisfy The Hungry Heart
LSB 641

Refrain

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
 4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
 5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less

- heed his voice; So when You call Your
 grat - i - tude That You should count us
 Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 tongue can tell; Whom all the world can -
 let us be, To serve each oth - er

- fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Refrain

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

LSB 680



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

Stand

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Nunc Dimittis~~(Latin: Now Depart – Song of Simeon)

Luke 2:29-32

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICAMUS/BENEDICTION

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The Lord bless you...and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Psalms 103:1

Numbers 6:24-26

CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

LSB 417



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while
4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed



can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions
Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter



Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of
All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -
Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn
With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -



God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.
ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

POSTLUDE

How Good, Lord, to Be Here

Mark Sedio

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service Four liturgy from Lutheran Service Book
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Serving the Lord and Us Today:

Preaching	Vicar Luke Elowsky
Celebrant.....	Pastor Joel Schultz
Organist.....	Deb Miller
Anthem	Youth Choir, Lauran Delancy, director
Acolytes.....	(8:00) Maksim Schlef (11:00) Kelsey Teply
Crucifer.....	(8:00) Timothy Schlef
Altar Guild.....	Debbie Johnson, Karen Benz, Shirley Knese, Carol Brandt
Counters	Keith Gloe & John Blakley
Altar Flowers	Karen Benz

ALTAR FLOWERS that adorn our altar this morning were given to the glory of God by Karen Benz in celebration of her birthday.

Voice of the Martyrs Prayer request

House Church Pastor Given Five Years in Prison - China

Chinese Communist Party authorities recently sentenced a Henan house church pastor to five and a half years in prison after he refused to let officials place patriotic slogans in his church. Pastor Li Juncai also received a fine of more than \$7,000 USD. Pastor Li's church, the Yuanyang County Central House Church, was established as a government-approved Three-Self church, but in 2013 gave up that status and merged with a local house church. Typically, 700-800 people attended services there weekly, and it was the largest house church in the area. When the government began oppressing house churches in 2018, they required the Yuanyang Country Central House Church to change a sign reading "Love God and People" to "Love Country." They also told the church they must remove the cross on their steeple. The church refused to comply, and on Feb. 20, 2019, Pastor Li was arrested along with three others for obstructing government administration. The others were released, but Pastor Li remained in detention. In January 2021, officials finally handed down the five-and-a-half year sentence to Pastor Li. After the pastor's arrest, the cross atop the church was forcibly removed, and the Christian sign was forcibly replaced. Continue to pray for Christians in China who are following their consciences rather than the government.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR SCHULTZ

Return to the Lord: Lent/Easter Worship Series



In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord: "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster" (Joel 2:13).

God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme "Return to the Lord" and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God's grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God's wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to "turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him" (Joel 2:14).

Each sermon in this series focuses on a particular event in the Passion, with a special focus on the people involved in the event. Studying the events and people helps to connect the hearers with their own sinful nature, to emphasize how we have turned away from the Lord, and to reinforce and rejoice in God's call for us to return to Him with all our heart.

Ash Wednesday: "A Call to Return"

Wednesday of Lent 1: "Return to Prayer"

Wednesday of Lent 2: "Return from Betrayal"

Wednesday of Lent 3: "Return from False Witness"

Wednesday of Lent 4: "Return from Denial"

Wednesday of Lent 5: "Return to the Kingdom of God"

Holy (Maundy) Thursday: "Return to the Table"

Good Friday: "Return to Truth"

Easter Sunday: "Return and See"

I pray that this series will be a blessing to you this Lenten season.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Joel Schultz

PRAYERS REQUESTED THIS WEEK

For **Rob & Trisha Hunter**, as they celebrate the birth of their grandson, **Isaac James Hunter**, born to Mark & Grace Hunter.

For **the family of Mark & Lisa Circle** as they mourn the death of Lisa's great aunt, **Sister Imelda Rose Hemmeke**.

For Mark Zarnstorff, recovering from hernia surgery.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

For **Rick Ellis**, friend of Juan & Stacey Martinez, who instead of cancer has something that mirrors cancer, AL amyloidosis. Treatment is the same as cancer, but a much better outlook.

For the **family of Bernice Schuckenbrock**, Mary Martin's mother, that they may they find comfort in knowing she's in her eternal resting place with our Savior.

For **Lee Kresin**, prayer of thanksgiving that he out of the hospital after a 22 day stay for COVID. He is now in rehab for at least a month, prayers for strength during recovery.

For **Ellie Torres, Jenni Patience, Karen Lentz, John Mahnken, Larry Barstad, Brandon Ryan, Pat Brackin, Jan Degner, Ashley Hung, Pat Gossen, Barb Gossen, Moriah Obermueller, and Joy Rodenberger** continuing treatments for cancer; for **Sherri Webb** as she continues to recover from her stroke and foot surgery.

For **our expectant mothers: Amber Cornell, Julie Flores**, and their unborn children. Also for those who long for God's gift of children.

For our partner church in Zacapa, Guatemala: Pray the God would help those with Covid. Pray that God would bless this congregation with church members and the community that they would be strengthened and encouraged in His faith as well.

For all those who are unemployed or under-employed, that the Lord would provide for all their needs and lead them to jobs soon. For those who have secured jobs, we offer prayers of thanksgiving.

Please note: All prayer requests will be kept on the list for a couple of weeks. After that time, it will be taken off unless we get notification from you. Thank you.