

EARTHEN VESSELS, WHOLE AND HOLY
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

14 February, 2021

Worship at 9:30 AM ✠ Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Welcome to Christ Church! In the Gospel for Transfiguration Sunday the disciples take to the mountaintop for learning and prayer. Nothing unusual in that -prophets before Jesus had done it. Journeys involving mountains aren't easy; there can be challenges and surprises. But with Jesus heaven breaks open with light and leaves the disciples then and now transfixed – but Jesus wants more. Jesus doesn't want to leave them -or us- simply transfixed. He longs for us to be transformed.

This is the final green Sunday after Epiphany. On Wednesday we enter into Lent and a time of focused prayer, fasting and service to renew our hearts. Our gathering on Sundays is the core, the heart of the Church. For these last months we've gathered in our hearts and across virtual means. It has been a challenge, but still we gather, and we are still Christ Church, one in the Lord Jesus, still serving, caring, worshipping. We invite you to continue to join with our sisters and brothers in faith, and to invite others to join us in worship.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: a time for preparation

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather for worship in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us come to God in humility and confidence,
confessing our sin before God and each other.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of truth and light,

we confess that we have sinned against you.

We admit the things that divide us

**within the church, among the nations,
and in our own relationships.**

We confess we have turned away from your light.

Pour out your healing light upon us.

Through the power and strength of the cross,

**heal our brokenness, forgive our foolish ways,
and make your light shine through us.**

Amen

The boundless riches of Christ

are the gift of God's grace to all people.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,

and by his authority, I declare to you

the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

GATHERING SONG # 838 ELW BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Amen.

WORD

Silence for reflection follows each reading.

The first reading is from 2 Kings, the 2nd chapter.

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

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

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

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalms 50 is read responsively by verse.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The second reading is from 2 Corinthians, the 4th chapter.

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

your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia. Out of Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines forth in glory. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the ninth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

TEACHING THE WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY #315, HOW GOOD LORD TO BE HERE

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.
Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

We have heard the Word. Now let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us join our hearts, praying that the Light of Christ will shine with healing on the church, for the world, and upon all those in need.

A brief silence. We join our hearts to pray for the world, our community, and our church.

For Jesus to shine on and through us, for the community of faith far and near, that Christ may be made known throughout the world, we pray: Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation as we enter into Lent and prepare for joy at the Lord's resurrection. Strengthen us to persist and endure, comfort us as we continue to act for one another's good and safety, and prepare our hearts for renewal. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For creation, the work of your hands. As nature awakens into spring, open our hearts to care for this great gift that all may be blessed by its beauty and bounty. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For all wearied by life's burdens, struggling in body, mind or spirit, longing for wholeness and healing. Hear our prayers for

- all in need of healing care, and those who cannot find or access the care they need...
- those who are struggling to meet the needs of home and work and family...
- all weary and stressed by trying to make ends meet, and by financial fears...
- for all who long for peace and justice among nations and neighbors...

Give us confidence to bring all our prayers, all our needs, all our fears to you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that your face shine on them, and on all who grieve. We pray: Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your healing grace, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Life, and our Light. **Amen**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Gathered by the Spirit we offer peace to those with us in place, or those we hold in our hearts.

OFFERTORY, AS WE GATHER OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. Our tithes and offerings may be gathered to be given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray: God of life and light:

We bring our tithes and offerings in thanksgiving for what you have given us:

Our lives, our time and all that we have. Bless these gifts, and make them a blessing to others, that Jesus' mercy and love may shine in our world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SENDING

GOSPEL CANTICLE: *The Benedictus, the Song of Zachariah.*

Blessed are you Lord, the God of Israel; you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our ancestors Sarah and Abraham:

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous in your sight, all the days of our lives.**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Let us join our hearts in the prayer our Savior taught us:

**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**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were sent earlier in the week by USPS and email. Pastor may choose to call attention to one or more, or share announcements that were not included.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace according to Your word.
**For mine eyes have seen Your salvation;
Which you have prepared before the face of all people;**

A light to reveal You to the nations, And the glory of Your people Israel.
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

Benediction

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus;
and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

SENDING SONG: #423 ELW HOLY HOLY HOLY

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
 Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

DISMISSAL

Let your light shine! Dwell in peace; Go forth to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor
the people of Christ Church, ministers
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Mr. Jeff Cron, Council President

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TRANSFIGURATION

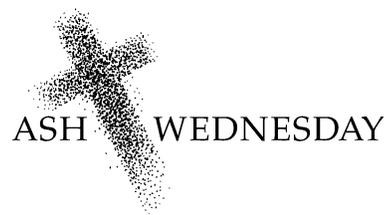
THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBER TO CHECK the church web site (www.christpipersville.org) for worship and meeting updates and worship videos and resources or contact the church office.

NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP is currently being held. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to Facebook and our website.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

LENT BEGINS this week with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Devotions and services will be kept remotely although plans may change. Lenten “Take-Out bags” will be made for use on Ash Wednesday and during Lent. Drive Up Ashes will be distributed from the parking lot on Ash Wednesday from 8-9 am, 12-1 pm and 4-5 pm. Devotions will be streamed on social media, and there will be Zoom/Facebook Live worship at 7 pm. Watch your email for more details.



CHANGE THE BOILER: Check your pockets and your sofa cushions! We are still accepting spare change for this boiler fundraiser.

SOMETHING NEW! You may now sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one similar to the way altar flowers had been sponsored and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Please contact the church office to arrange your sponsorship.

GIANT GIFT CARDS can be purchased during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,500 in 2020 and \$200 so far in 2021.

LOOKING FOR GIRL SCOUT COOKIES? Ava Cron is once again selling Girl Scout cookies. Contact the Cron's (267-261-4581 or 215-262-3735) and they will make arrangements to get your favorite Girl Scout cookies to you.

THE LORD'S PANTRY has a continuing need for donations. During the month of February we will be collecting canned meats and baby formula, but all types of canned/dry goods are welcome (peanut butter, cereal, soup, etc.). Donations may be placed in the pantry cabinet by the parking lot doors or contact the church office to make drop off arrangements. You may also purchase Giant gift cards to be provided to The Lord's Pantry.

DID YOU KNOW...Many Thrivent policy holders are eligible to designate "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to a charity of their choice. Christ Lutheran Church is one of those options. We received \$2,180.00 through this program in 2020 and \$476.00 so far this year.

SIMPLY GIVING is a program that enables you to financially support our ministry easily, securely and faithfully. You choose the amount and the schedule: weekly, bimonthly, or monthly. You can easily change the amount or timing. You can be a blessing! Contact the church office with any questions.

Week of February 14th at a Glance

- Sun. 02/14 The Last Sunday after Epiphany, The Transfiguration of Our Lord
9:30AM Live-Streamed Worship (NO in-person worship)
Happy Birthday, David Swope!
Happy Anniversary, Chad and Diane Kallenbach!
- Wed. 02/17 Ash Wednesday
8-9AM, 12-1PM & 4-5PM Drive-up Ashes
7PM Virtual Worship
- Thur. 02/18 8:30AM Morning Prayer; 9:00AM Bible Study
- Fri. 02/19 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Happy Birthday, Dylan Bechtold!
- Sun. 02/21 The First Sunday in Lent
9:30AM Live-Streamed Worship (NO in-person worship)