

February 18-19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

Jesus ... led them up a
high mountain.
MATTHEW 17:1



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www.salemlutheran.org



Transfiguration Sunday
Jesus reveals God's glory to us

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Mighty Lord, thank you for bringing me back to your house once again for worship. Reveal your glory to me through your Word and fill my life with prayer and praise. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Though Jesus did miracles and showed miraculous wisdom, to this point he looked like a normal man. That would change on this day on this mountain. Here Jesus gives his disciples a glimpse of the glory he set aside to be our Savior. And the voice of the Father thundered from the heavens, just as it did at Jesus' baptism, announcing Jesus' true identity to the world—the glorious Son of God.

And so the Transfiguration of our Lord serves as a one-week bridge between the season of Epiphany, where Jesus is revealed as the true Son of God, and the season of Lent, where we witness what the Son of God came to do.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERIES: Our greatest needs are universal. We all live under the curse of sin, leaving us utterly helpless in our natural state. Left in sin, people are doomed to death, spiritually, physically, and eternally. Lent is the season of the Church Year where we wrestle with our greatest needs, but also find that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. This Lent, the Spirit makes one thing clear: If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need. Our worship on Sundays in Lent will follow this pattern:

- First Sunday in Lent – A Champion for the Defeated
- Second Sunday in Lent – A Gift for the World Holy
- Third Sunday in Lent – Water for the Thirsty
- Fourth Sunday in Lent – Sight for the Blind
- Fifth Sunday in Lent – Life for the Dead
- Palm Sunday – A Greater Type of King

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe
Organ: Robyn Stoller

Order of Worship



OPENING HYMN: How Good, Lord, to Be Here

CW 389 sts. 1-4



- 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 - fil - ler of the past, and hope of things to be,
- 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;



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.

Stand

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SIN

M: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I now ask you in the presence of God, who searches the heart: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his wrath and punishment?

C: I do confess my many sins and admit that I deserve God's punishment.

M: Do you willingly repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed? And do you promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life?

C: I do repent of my sins and promise to amend my sinful ways.

M: Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, forgives you all your sins?

C: I do believe, for God has promised that whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, and as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Response: Beautiful Savior

CW 522 sts. 1, 3-4



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light, bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee,
spark - ling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er,
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,



tru - ly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels in the sky.
praise, ad - o - ra - tion now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Exodus 24:9-18

On Mt. Sinai Moses saw the glory of the Lord as a terrifying fire. He would see it again in grace on the Mount of Transfiguration.

⁹Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction."

¹³Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them."

¹⁵When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

¹⁸Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

Peter testifies to the reliability of the Christian faith. Peter was an eyewitness to the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

At his transfiguration, Jesus reveals his glory.

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." ⁸When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Down from the Mount of Glory

CW 388



- 1 Down from the mount of glo - ry came Je - sus Christ, our Lord.
- 2 Trans - fig - ured, Christ, the low - ly, stood ra - dian in the light,
- 3 Yet mark this glo - ry hid - den! See him the mount de - scend
- 4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that is his fame
- 5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry of Je - sus Christ, our Lord,



Re - call the won - drous sto - ry, rich gem in sa - cred Word.
light found in God - head sole - ly, for hu - man eyes too bright.
and, by the Fa - ther bid - den, his will - ing foot - steps bend
our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed a mount—the hill of shame.
and let the won - drous sto - ry full peace and joy af - ford!



A - gain your faith will view him in dou - ble glo - ry here;
 Then came a voice from heav - en, con - firmed what here we see;
 to seek hu - mil - i - a - tion in deep - est depths of woe,
 Up - on the cross he prof - fered him - self to ag - o - ny;
 The ho - ly mount ac - claims him the maj - es - ty di - vine;



the great - er hom - age due him will in your life ap - pear.
 the words "my Son" were giv - en to seal his de - i - ty.
 to suf - fer deg - ra - da - tion no mind can probe or know.
 his ho - ly soul he of - fered to set the guilt - y free.
 Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er— yours and mine.

Sermon

Based on Matthew 17:1-9

"Jesus Prepares Us for His Passion"

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the
 Father Almighty.**

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Offering



 Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 Give Online

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

M: Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Always keep your people faithful to you. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ in the Word and sacraments. During all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus. Keep us safe and protect us from the tricks and treachery of the devil. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: We pray that you move us to have compassion on those stumbling in the darkness and empower us to proclaim Christ to all who have no faith. Give us courage to be unashamed of the light you have given us and to carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear. Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and give them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: We pray that Christ reveals his gracious presence to all who suffer. We pray especially for families and those in our circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone whose needs we hold in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without Christ. As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's sacrifice on the cross and give us hearts full of faith in him. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and all for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the world.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Please 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, 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.

Hymn: Alleluia, Song of Triumph

977b



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of tri - umph, sound of joy that
2 Al - le - lu - ia we are sing - ing, voic - ing hymns in
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while
4 May our hymns be filled with long - ing—hear us, Ho - ly



can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
pure ac - cord, With Christ's ho - ly Church u - nit - ed,
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions
Trin - i - ty— As we look to your blest Eas - ter,



ev - er dear to choirs on high; Saints a - dorned in
jus - ti - fied, re - deemed, re - stored, And with all his
make us for a while fore - go. For the sol - emn
here, and then e - ter - nal - ly, When we shall once



robes of glo - ry join the great an - gel - ic cry.
faith - ful peo - ple raise our songs to praise the Lord.
time is com - ing when our tears for sin must flow.
more be sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary. Adult & Teen Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Our Greatest Needs: A Champion for the Defeated
Bible Readings: Genesis 3:1-15; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
Hymns: 556, 863, 842

LENTEN Schedule



Ash
WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday & the Season of Lent

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday Worship Service at **4 & 7pm** on February 22nd. Salem will once again make available the ancient custom of receiving ashes on the forehead or the hand to those who want it as part of the service. The ashes remind us of the consequence of our sin, our bodies' return to ashes in death.

For 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. This year we will have two different, but related worship series in this solemn, but hopeful season. On Sundays we will consider the price and blessing of our salvation under the theme **Our Greatest Needs**. Our greatest needs are universal. We all live under the curse of sin, leaving us utterly helpless in our natural state. Left in sin, people are doomed to death: spiritually, physically, and eternally. Lent is the season of the Church Year where we wrestle with our greatest needs, but also find that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. This Lent, the Spirit makes one thing clear: If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

OUR
GREATEST
NEEDS

Each Wednesday we'll have shorter, devotional services at 4pm and 7pm under the theme **His Final Steps**. The series ponders key words and moments from the account of Jesus' passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of his saving work for us, the breadth and depth of his love for us, and the strength of his union with us. Guest pastors will rotate preaching each mid-week. Our time together includes a meal served from 5 to 6:30pm. We invite you to join us for these evenings of fellowship as we "break bread" together. The meals are offered freely, but a free-will offering will help serving groups pay for the meals and support their ministries. Check the church calendar online for serving groups and menus as they are settled.

HIS
FINAL
STEPS

www.salemlutheran.org/calendar.

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

