

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY+ 06 FEBRUARY 2022



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

*The entire service, including the **rubrics** of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. **If you are looking for a church home** and would like to know about our

A Note From the Organist:

Paul Manz served many years at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and St. Luke's in Chicago. He was a master improviser, and is credited with single-handedly creating the hymn festival. His setting of "Beautiful Savior" uses contrasting flutes and strings.

Born in England, Healey Willan moved to Canada in 1910, and served many years at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto. He wrote orchestral and chamber music but his lasting fame rests on his organ and choral music. "Deo Gracias" is also known as the "Agincourt Hymn" because its original text celebrated the English victory at Agincourt. Today, it is used for the Transfiguration hymn "O love how deep..." (LSB 544) Willan's setting features dramatic fanfares, with interludes between the lines of the hymn, ending on the full organ.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

537 Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 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, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **✠** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 84:1-2a, 4, 10-11; antiphon: Psalm 77:18b

Your lightnings lighted | up the world;*
the earth trem- | bled and shook.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O | LORD of hosts!*

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts | of the LORD.

Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,*
ever sing- | ing your praise!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand | elsewhere.*

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents
of | wickedness.**

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk up- | rightly.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Kyrie

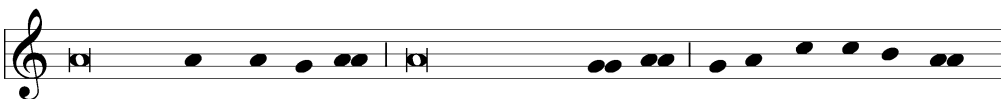
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



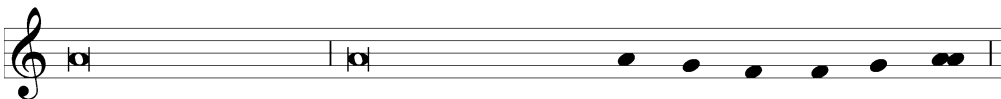
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



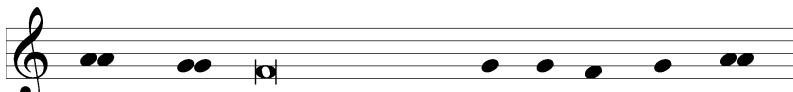
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



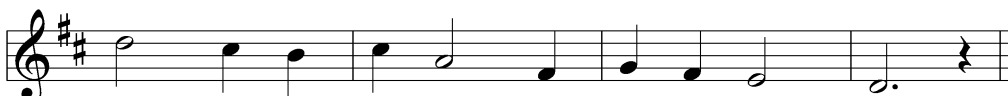
C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.

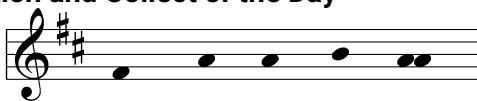


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

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.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 34:29–35

The Shining Face of Moses

²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. ³²Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. ³³And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

³⁴Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 45:2a; 110:1

You are the most handsome of the | sons of men;*
grace is poured up- | on your lips.
The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,*
until I make your enemies your | footstool."

Christ's Glory and the Prophetic Word

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventeenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The Transfiguration

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And

behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

414 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here



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.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is Lord, have mercy."

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Church of God, that she would be illuminated with resurrection light, and so tell the world of Christ's deliverance, let us pray to the Lord:

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 Scripture testifies of Christ and His work for our eternal salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

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:

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:

P For the troubled, the sick and the dying and those in need of our prayer, especially *Alice, Beth, Carmen, Cynthia, the Conrad's, Dalton, David, Debra, Deneice and her family, Faith, Gary, Gloria, James, Jamesetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marie, Marion and her family, Philip, Sabrina, Steve, and Susie* that by the prayers of Christ Himself they would be brought through their trials, let us pray to the Lord:

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:

P 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.**

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



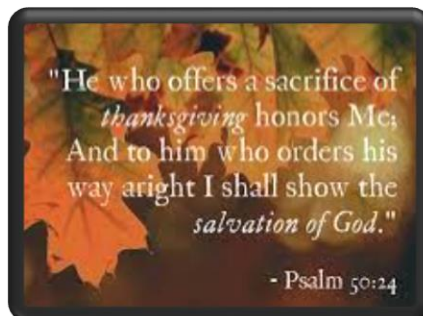
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.



- Psalm 50:24

Service of the Sacrament

Preface


LSB 177



P The Lord be with you.




C And al-so with you.




P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.


Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

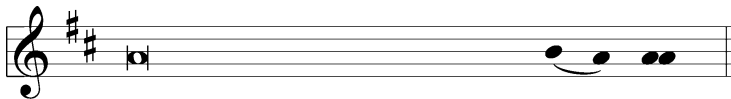
Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to
door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
me this hour — In this or - di - nar - y sign.
He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His
in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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Distribution Hymn

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text and tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord

LSB 181

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
 He has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-
 joice and proud-ly bear His name. He re-calls 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.

Post-Communion Collect

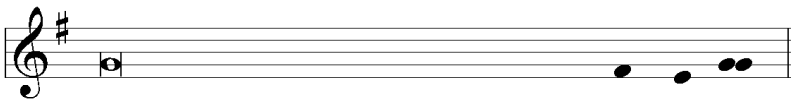
P Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.



Benediction

LSB 183



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Hymn to Depart

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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✚ **THIS WEEK’S NOTES** ✚

Announcements

+ Last Sunday’s Attendance: 43

+ Undie Sunday items may be left in the narthex in a box labeled “Undie Sunday” that is in front of the bookcase. Thank you for your donations on behalf of Orphan Grain Train and LWML.

+Reminder that today is Mite Sunday! The Mite box is located in the Narthex.

Happy Birthday To:

Sydney Tzeitell on Feb 5th

Trinity Killian on Feb 11th

Sophia Killian Feb 11th

Synod Sentences for Transfiguration Sunday

Jesus Is Transfigured and Manifests His Glory

The Lord appeared to Moses in the light of the burning bush (Ex. 3:1–14). Later Moses’ face would shine with the light of God’s glory when he came down from Mount Sinai (Ex. 34:29–35). At the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with the One who is the Light of Light Himself (Matt. 17:1–9). Jesus’ glory as God shines with brilliant splendor in and through His human nature. By this epiphany, our Lord confirmed the prophetic word (2 Pet. 1:16–21), revealing that He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. He manifested His majesty as the eternal Son of the Father, and He wonderfully foreshadowed our adoption as sons (Collect). We who have been baptized into Christ’s body are given a glimpse of the glory that we will share with Him in the resurrection on the Last Day.

Lutherans For Life Quote for Transfiguration Sunday

Jesus radiates the glory of God among human beings humbled by sinful brokenness. This glory resides not in a certain age or a particular appearance or a specific ability but in God's love for us creatures as His children. Let us behold this glory embodied in the least of these and remind neighbors of their eternal worth. *Holy Son of God, lead us to listen and mimic You in respecting, protecting, advocating, and assisting. Amen.*

A Prayer For The Week

O merciful and everlasting God, heavenly Father: We thank You that You have revealed to us the glory of Your Son, and let the light of Your Gospel shine upon us: We pray that You would guide us by this light that we may walk diligently as Christians in all good works, ever be strengthened by Your grace, and conduct our lives in all godliness; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

An Excerpt from Martin Luther's Sermons

"Now every preacher should be so sure of having and preaching God's Word that he would even stake his life on this, since it is a matter of life for us. He should not be in doubt. Now no man is so holy that he would dare die on the strength of the doctrine he himself has taught. Therefore, it is established here that the apostles were assured by God that their Gospel was God's Word. And here it is also shown that the Gospel is nothing else than a sermon about Christ. Accordingly, one should listen to no other sermon; for the Father wants no other sermon. 'This is My Beloved Son,' He says; 'listen to Him. He is your Teacher.' It is as if He were saying: 'If you listen to Him, you have listened to Me.' Therefore, Peter now says: We have proclaimed and made known to you that Christ is a Lord, that He rules over all things, that all power belongs to Him, and that he who believes in Him also has all this power. We have not invented this ourselves; but we have seen and heard it through the revelation of God, who has commanded us to listen to this Christ." *From Martin Luther's Sermon on 2 Peter 1:18, 1522.*

A Snippet From 1517

In our text this Sunday, Saint Peter asserts that "the morning star" which "shines in your hearts" (v.19) is the promise of Jesus Himself, returning at last to signal God's great coming day is about to dawn. Everything the early Christians believed had this as its future horizon: The time would surely come when what had begun with Jesus would be completed at His return, His reappearance. The connection with the Transfiguration is that the "inner circle" of disciples saw the *future* of Christ's dwelling with humanity (hence the request to build "tabernacles" for Jesus, Moses and Elijah) and now a confident Peter speaks about the coming future, which is as certain as Christ before his eyes on Mount Tabor.

That background helps us understand why Peter says what he does in verses 12-15. He knows his time to die is drawing near. In fact, Jesus had warned him of this very thing (John 21:18-19), and so verse 14 may refer to a later word which Peter had received from the Lord. However, it was important to be sure his readers would be able to hold on to the truths which he had taught and know they are certain with sure outcomes. The death of an apostle must not mean the decline of the apostolic faith. They have a king - Jesus; and Jesus is in charge of the present, leading it to its assured future, as certain as Christ is Himself the security of a resurrection to come and the transformation of all who are united to Him.

The Transfiguration means no one must wait in uncertainty and darkness for the morning star to (re)appear. Again, Jesus has already been revealed, to Peter, James and John, as they stood with Him on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-8). This story, Peter insists, is not a, "cleverly devised myth." Presumably, by this stage in the early church, some of the opponents of the faith were scoffing at the extraordinary tales going around about Jesus. Peter insists it was the truth and, like the crucifixion and resurrection, the Transfiguration was a fact.

The Transfiguration means no one must wait in uncertainty and darkness for the morning star to (re)appear.

The result of this eyewitness testimony is the apostles could look back on the entire world of biblical prophecy (that great, but unfinished story which functioned all through as a set of signposts pointing forward to what was to come) and could see how, in retrospect, it all made sense in light of the Messiah; Jesus. Among the great prophecies, indeed, was that of the "star" that would arise from Jacob (Numbers 24:17). This was widely understood at the time as a prophecy of the Messiah and it may well have supplied Peter with the inspiration for the idea of Jesus as "the morning star" in verse 19. What Peter is saying, then, is that the stories of Jesus, reaching something of a climax in the extraordinary revelation of glory at the transfiguration, mean one can now read the entire ancient Jewish scriptures knowing the end from the beginning and can see with God-given hindsight how everything came rushing together at the point where the Messiah Himself emerged. Jesus taught this in Luke 24:25-27, 44-47 and John 5:39-40, among other places. The revelation of God's glory in Him, indeed, goes closely with the promise that we too will come to "share in the divine nature."

Paul compliments this theme in 2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." Here is the apostolic teaching of the transfiguration of our humanity on the Last Day: "For those whom [God] foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers" (Romans 8:29).

Peter is thus addressing the new situation that had emerged, for which no ancient Jew, had, as it were, a road map. Everything had been straining forward to the day when God's

glory would be revealed, the “Temple” (that is, the Church in which the Son and Spirit dwell) would be rebuilt, and the Messiah would appear to save His people. The Apostles testified it had happened: The coming of Jesus the Son was the fulfillment of all those promises and prophecies, types and covenants. His resurrection and, as Peter asserts here, His *transfiguration* proved it. The challenge now was that nobody imagined there would be a further period of time *between* the advent of God’s Messiah and the Last Day, but here it was dragging on. Peter offers both an explanation as to why such a time would exist, the assurance as to where it was heading, and how it would conclude.

Peter explains from the Scriptures how, in the meantime (that is, the time before the Last Day, the Day of Resurrection of all flesh), Christians abide in the position outlined in verse 19: Jesus, His coming, transfiguration, death and resurrection has confirmed the prophetic words of Scripture. We hold on to these like people clinging to a shining star through the darkest times, until the day when Jesus reappears as “the morning star” to usher in God’s final day.

Peter now deals with the skeptic who supposes this way of reading the Hebrew Bible is all a Christian invention. What right does Peter or anyone else have to superimpose the person, life and accomplishments of Jesus on the (Old Testament) Scriptures? Such a proposition finds strong words from Peter (verses 20-21). It is not a matter of private interpretation. This was not his or anyone else’s idea. Scripture itself is not a human invention. Behind the various authors and genre is the divine inspiration, not bypassing human minds, personalities, and situations in question but working through them to breathe God’s Word through human words; exactly, precisely, definitively. God is the one who made Jesus the fulfillment of it all. In fact, Jesus provides us with the reading horizon for those Scriptures: He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, the promises and eschatology of Israel. So says Jesus. So says the Father who commands the world to, “Listen to Him!” *Rev. John Bombaro, 2020*