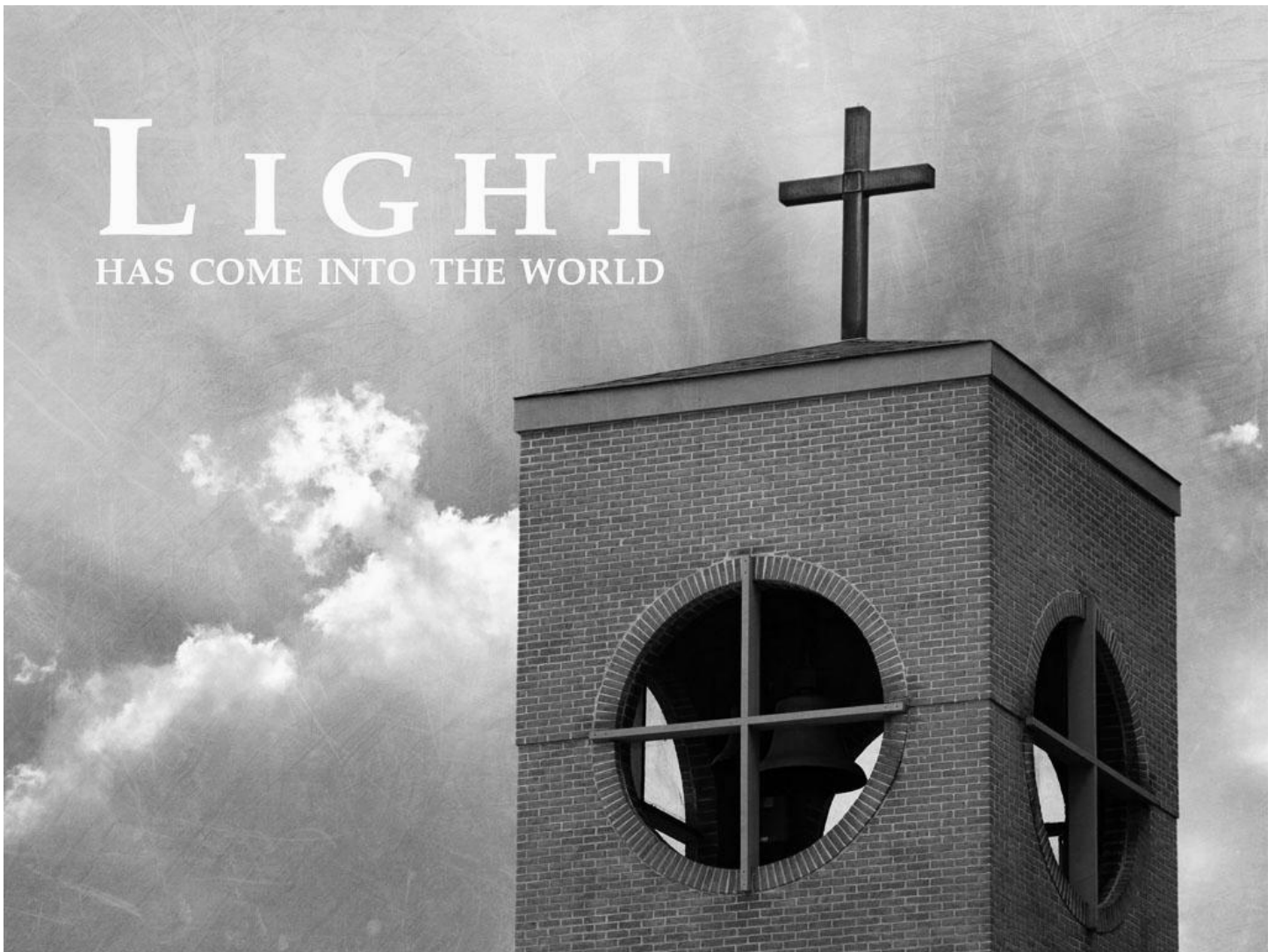


*An evening setting of Holy Communion*



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

5:30 pm

Holy Communion

Transfiguration of Our Lord Weekend

PASTOR: THE REVEREND FARON H. JOHNSON

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[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

## ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected after the service.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

## WELCOME

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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.**

*The assembly stands.*

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. . . .

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

A reading from Exodus the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.}*

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 2** (read responsively)

*You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)*

<sup>1</sup>Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup>**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together,**

**against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

<sup>3</sup>"Let us break their yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

<sup>4</sup>**God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
the LORD holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God speaks to them,  
and in rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup>**"As for me, I have anointed my king  
upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

<sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree of the LORD,  
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

<sup>8</sup>**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

<sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

<sup>10</sup>**And now, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the LORD with fear,  
and with trembling bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup>**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.  
Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

*All: You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)*

## **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

A reading from 2 Peter the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

*{At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.}*

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.}*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**HOMILY**

Together we confess our faith:

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, your loving power is at work among us. Rouse and embolden your church, that we too might be transfigured, set alight in the world for the sake of the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awesome God, you speak and the earth trembles. You display your majesty in the mountains and your mystery in the clouds. Grant that we discover your magnificence in all of your created world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruler of nations, your reign extends across all human borders. Guide world leaders (*especially*) in justice and righteousness, that they may work for equity for all people and protect the world that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**



Gracious God, you are a refuge for all who are neglected and abused. Bring freedom to those who are oppressed and give comfort to those experiencing pain of any kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of Moses and Elijah, you made your dwelling place at the top of a mountain with Jesus and his disciples. Dwell also in this congregation, that all who enter this community might be transformed by your dazzling brilliance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Everlasting God, you offer eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the witness of those who lived and died in the faith (*especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, whose martyrdom in the early church we remember this day*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*Please be seated, while the table is set.*

*The assembly stands.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

All glory to you, Almighty God, heavenly Father:  
out of Your great love for us You gave Your only Son Jesus,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have  
eternal life.

It was your Son Jesus  
who freely surrendered Himself to suffer death  
on the cross for us and for our salvation.

There, on that cross,  
He willingly offered Himself up as a full,  
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

By that gift of love and grace  
we are your people,  
born of water and word,  
served, fed, and forgiven at your Holy Table  
and called together by Your Holy Spirit.

Therefore we offer ourselves  
as disciples who follow  
as witnesses to the world  
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

On the night in which He was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:  
Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup is the new covenant  
in my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:*

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

## **COMMUNION**

*Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **QUIET MEDITATION**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**February 23, 2020**

### **TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

#### **Listen, Just Listen**

“This is my Son, the Beloved; . . . listen to him!” A thunderous, divine voice directed the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration to listen to Jesus. Peter, James, and John had seen the light of eternity shining in Jesus’ face, only to fall to the ground in fear, little understanding what it meant.

And to this, Jesus says, “Get up and do not be afraid.” That’s all. There is no denunciation, no condemnation, no call to repent of their fears and failure to understand. There is only his healing touch and words of assurance: “Do not be afraid.”

Only much later would the disciples start to grasp the significance of the holy moment they had shared on the mountain. Like us, they are just beginners when it comes to understanding the light of God shining in the face of Jesus. Sometimes the light of Christ warms and illumines our hearts to overflowing. The wonder of his loving presence fills and lifts us above our doubts and fears into the joy of simply knowing him. That feeling of overflowing is the mountaintop. We don’t live there, and can’t—just like the disciples couldn’t remain on the mountain where Jesus shone like the sun. But we should listen and savor what we hear and know, lest we forget.

Listen as Jesus speaks of his suffering and death. You will hear the voice of an everlasting love, calling you “beloved.” Listen to Jesus’ voice after the resurrection. You will know he will be with you “always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20). Listen to the voice of gentle strength saying, “Do not be afraid.” Listen to his voice, and then walk into your future knowing a great love holds you and always will, through all the highs and lows of living.

Just listen to what he is saying.

## ***Daily Readings for the Week February 23-29***

Sunday:	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9
Monday:	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55 Exodus 33:7-23 Acts 7:30-34
Tuesday:	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55 1 Kings 19:9-18 Romans 11:1-6
Ash Wednesday:	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday:	Psalm 51 Jonah 3:1-10 Romans 1:1-7
Friday:	Psalm 51 Jonah 4:1-11 Romans 1:8-17
Saturday:	Psalm 51 Isaiah 58:1-12 Matthew 18:1-7

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