

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## ***TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD***

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059  
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**TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:** *The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister  
Bob St. Clair  
Andrea Cameron  
Diana Wise  
Zeb Berry  
Harrison Mummah  
Linda Clark & Chris Martin

Vicar  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Acolyte  
Offering Presenter  
Altar Guild

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD February 14, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy God,

**C you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

P How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING

\* GATHERING HYMN “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” bulletin, pg. 10

\* GREETING

P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

\* KYRIE (**C - sung**)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

\* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (**In Unison**)

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (**In Unison**)

P Let us pray...

**C 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

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

FIRST READING.....2 Kings 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah 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. <sup>3</sup>The 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."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah 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. <sup>5</sup>The 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."

<sup>6</sup>Then 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. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.

<sup>9</sup>When 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." <sup>10</sup>He 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." <sup>11</sup>As 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. <sup>12</sup>Elisha 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.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 50:1-6 (*responsively*)

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

**<sup>2</sup>Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**

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

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

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

**<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause, for it is God who is judge.**

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

SECOND READING.....2 Corinthians 4:3-6

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In 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. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and

ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For 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.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia.**

*Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

\* **GOSPEL.....Mark 9:2-9**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

<sup>2</sup>Six 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, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then 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." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Vicar Leister

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Abide with Me"

(vss. 1-3) bulletin, pg. 11

\* **NICENE CREED (In Unison)**

**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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, with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE INTERCESSION**

**P let us pray.**

**C Have mercy, O God.**

**\* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

**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.**

**OFFERING PRESENTATION**

**\* OFFERTORY ('vineyards')**

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

**\* OFFERING PRAYER**

**P O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.**

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\* BLESSING**

**P God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.**

**C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

**\* SENDING HYMN**

**"Abide with Me"**

**(vss. 4-5) bulletin, pg. 11**

\* HOLY COMMUNION

P Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

P In 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.

P 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.

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

**C Amen.**

\* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!**

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**WELCOME TO ALL!**

JUST A THOUGHT – Steve Kamer, Announcer for the TV program, “Inside Edition” – For without the resurrection there will not be a Christianity.

**CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com). If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

FEBRUARY’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will continue to be for our local missions, specifically the Central Juniata EMS. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to CJEMS. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This idea was born when budgeted funds were unused during the 2020 calendar year due to the shutdowns from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

COPIES OF OCTOBER 25, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE 2021 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Please pick them up before or after Sunday morning services or contact the church office to make arrangements to pick yours up in the office. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2020 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

February 7, 2021 Attendance – 23

		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Total Offering	\$1,960.00	Benevolence	\$ 20.00
Other Funds	<u>650.00</u>	Memorial Fund	530.00
General Fund	\$1,310.00	CJEMS Mission for	
		this month	<u>100.00</u>
		Total	\$ 650.00

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or [gramcynthia49@yahoo.com](mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com).

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed for the annual Synod Assembly on June 19, 2021 (virtually on zoom). If you are interested in serving, please contact Vicar Leister or the church office.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected



as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

## **COMMUNITY**

### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:**

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, PAPER TOWELS, COUGH DROPS, DISH DETERGENT, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, ANY CLEANING ITEM. DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

### **PRAYER LIST**

Shirley Aumiller	Michal Gayer	Larry Miller
Tyson Aurand	Terri Gayer	Shirley Miller
Carole Baker	Ken Geedey	Jim Minick
Donna Barton	Eddi Kay Gill	Claire Mummah
Lindsey Barton	Paul Goss	Landon Musser
Gary Bechtold	Amy Hart	Carole Nace
Donna Bell	Beth Harris	Darve Nace
Julie Berryman	Harry & Jennifer Heikes	Austin Parker
Nick Beward	Sue Henderson	Noel Peachey
Roxanne Boyer	Ken Henry	Dave Phelan
Charlotte Burd	Nox Hepburn	Butch & Sandy Pines
Andrea Cameron	Jason Hockenberry & Family	Betty Ranck
Pam Campbell	Curt & Judy Houtz	Keith Ranck
Ruth Cisney	Dean Hutchinson	Mackenzie Shearer
Curtis Clark	Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson	Ronald Shearer
Randy Clark	Brenda Imes	Bobby & Eva Sieber
Terry Coder	Annie Ingle	Mike Sparks
Jean Compton	Doc Johnston	Donald Speece
Leann Crimmel	Guy Kerstetter	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Will DeLancy	Denny King	Charles Stump
Guy Dillman	Darvin Krouse	Alice Swartz
Fred & Dot Dowling	Pam Lawson	Dorothy Towsey
Dixie Dressler	Gwen Swisher Lewis	Rich Walters
Renee Dzikowski	Carol Lyter	Dr. Glen Webb
Neil Fisher	Anthony Martin	Erma Williamson
Janie Fogleman	Carlen McClure	Jim Woltman
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Alice McClure	Mackenzie Wray
Bentley Fulkroad	Isabel Meinsler	George Zimmerman
Joan Fulkroad	Messiah Mutual Ministry	Linda Zimmerman
	Cecilia Miller	
	Ellwood Miller	

## PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Bramm	Minnie Minick
Ruth Cisney	Edith Nipple
Max Ernest	Carol Simonton
Margaret Guss	Sieber & Ona Stoner
Gail Henderson	Ken Stuck
Mona Lawson	Kitty Walters
Jane Marhefka	

# Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

265

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

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

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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Tune: J. G. Werner, Choral-Buch, 1815

RATISBON  
717777

272

## Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?

Help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!