



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Transfiguration Sunday Worship
March 2, 2025

REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER HIS SANCTUARY, PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.



The Transfiguration of the Lord by D. Nolle c. 1694

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ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe that the Lord’s Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter blurted out that it was good the disciples were there so they could build shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Our being close to our Lord, though, is not good so that we might do something for Him; rather, it is good because we know He has done so much for us. Moses, the greatest prophet according to the reading from Deuteronomy, spoke God’s Word, but Jesus is the Word, effecting our forgiveness and salvation in His sacrifice for us. His “departure,” as Luke puts it in the Gospel, is literally His exodus, not from slavery in Egypt like Moses, but from sin and death through His sacrifice on the cross. Our Lord is the builder of His “house,” the Church. Only because we have been forgiven is it good for us to be here, for as the psalm reminds us, “the Lord our God is holy!”

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences Hebrews 3:6a; Luke 9:35; Psalm 99:9

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

P Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. **G And we are His house.**

P “This is My Son, My Chosen One; **G listen to Him!”**

P Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain;

G for the LORD our God is holy!

Call to Worship – Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble

1. Did you feel the mountains tremble
Did you hear the oceans roar
When the people rose to sing of
Jesus Christ the risen One
Did you feel the people tremble
Did you hear the singers roar
When the lost began to sing of
Jesus Christ the saving One
And we can see that God You're moving
A mighty river through the nations
And young and old will turn to Jesus
Fling wide you heavenly gates
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

2. Do you feel the darkness tremble
When all the saints join in one song
And all the streams flow as one river
To wash away our brokenness
And here we see that God You're moving
A time of jubilee is coming
When young and old return to Jesus
Fling wide you heavenly gates
Prepare the way of the risen Lord **CHORUS**

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***CHORUS: Open up the doors
and let the music play
Let the streets resound with singing
Songs that bring Your hope
Songs that bring Your joy
Dancers who dance upon injustice***

Confession and Absolution 1 John 1:8–9

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.**

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

P Almighty God, merciful Father,

C **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. Forgive us for our spiritual blindness, and renew our faith in You alone.**

P Jesus came down from the Mount of Transfiguration, even though He knew His disciples would forsake and deny Him. He went to the cross so that He could offer us all full and free forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And also 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. **C** **Amen.**

Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my vision
O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me
Save that Thou art
Thou my best thought
By day or by night
Waking or sleeping
Thy presence my light

2. Be Thou my wisdom
Be Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father
I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling
And I with Thee one

3. Be Thou my shield
And my sword for the fight
Be Thou my dignity
Be Thou my might
Thou my soul's shelter
And Thou my high tow'r
Raise Thou me heav'nward
O pow'r of my pow'r

4. Riches I heed not
Nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance
Now and always
Thou and Thou only
Be first in my heart
High King of heaven
My treasure Thou art

5. High King of heaven
When vict'ry is won
May I reach heaven's joys
O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart
Whatever befall
Still be my vision
O Ruler of all

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

¹Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. ⁴And the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." ⁵So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, ⁶and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. ⁷Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. ⁸And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

⁹And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ¹²and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 99

¹The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

²The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

³Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

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Acknowledgments

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⁴The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon his name. They called to the LORD, and he answered them.

⁷In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them.

⁸O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

Epistle

Hebrews 3:1–6

¹Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ²who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

C Alleluia. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 9:28–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.

³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said.

³⁴As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory



1 Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo-ry, Heav-en's voice, the daz-zling light;
2 Glimpsed and gone the rev - e - la-tion, They shall gain and keep its truth,
3 Lord, trans - fig - ure our per-cep-tion With the pur - est light that shines,



Mo - ses and E - li - jah van - ish; Christ a - lone com - mands the height!
Not by build - ing on the moun - tain An - y shrine or sa - cred booth,
And re - cast our life's in - ten - tions To the shape of Your de - signs,



Pe - ter, James, and John fall si - lent, Turn - ing from the sum - mit's rise
But by fol - low - ing the Sav - ior Through the val - ley to the cross
Till we seek no oth - er glo - ry Than what lies past Cal - v'ry's hill



Down - ward toward the shad - owed val - ley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.
And by test - ing faith's re - sil - ience Through be - tray - al, pain, and loss.
And our liv - ing and our dy - ing And our ris - ing by Your will.

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Sermon – “The Transfiguration of Jesus and What it Really Means!”

1. The Season of Epiphany focuses on how Jesus reveals Himself.
 - a. The Gospel lessons up until now reveal Jesus' power through what He did.
 - b. Transfiguration Sunday we focus on who Jesus really is, not with things He did, but simply by who He is, showing His divine glory.
2. This historical moment of Jesus' transfiguration isn't just for us ***to know*** of His glory... along with these three disciples we get a glimpse of the glory that awaits those Believers who die in the true faith!
3. Mountain top experiences are wonderful and can be life changing, but they aren't God's ultimate goal for us.
 - a. Like Peter, so many people focus on the wrong things as the most important things regarding faith and church-life.
 - b. So many disregard putting solid Biblical teaching and doctrine first and foremost, putting experiential feelings first instead of putting truth and solid doctrine first.
 - c. Exciting moments don't often last long... and actually can become the new hum-drum norm.
 - d. Basing our relationship with God Almighty should not be based on feelings that can come and go.

4. The ultimate meaning of the mountaintop experience of the Transfiguration is found in the experience on another mount... mount Calvary. It's only through understanding the ugly and vile shame of the cross can we then understand the meaning of the glory of Jesus' Transfiguration.
5. The topic Jesus, Elijah and Moses spoke of was Jesus' departure (His "Exodus") that would take place in Jerusalem (His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension)
6. Feelings, emotions, and excitement are part of who we are and our faith journey.
 - a. ***But*** we don't base our faith upon what we feel.
 - b. Our faith is based on and rooted in the historical reality of God in flesh loving us so much, and coming to us, suffering and dying for our sin, conquering death by rising from the grave.
7. When our faith is somehow based on feelings and emotions, as we look for excitement, we fall into the deadly trap of us taking the reins and responsibility for part or even all of our faith... and miss or even reject what God the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives...
8. Thank God for the staying-power of the cross & for the staying power in baptism. These are things God alone has done for us. Thank God for the strength & staying power of His Word.

The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed (On Redemption)

C **And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P *What does this mean?*

C **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church around the world and for all people in their various needs.

Moses was the leader of God's people as they sojourned from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. O Holy Spirit, raise up people to govern their nation freely and justly. Give them courage to enact laws that protect all who live within their borders. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** The Israelites had to deal with the tribes already in the Promised Land. Around the world today, good Lord, guide and protect firefighters, first responders, and all those who go in harm's way in their communities. Accompany and protect armed forces deployed across the globe wherever nations are in conflict. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** The three disciples on the mountain "were heavy with sleep." Surround people who are tired, poor, sick, or lonely with faith-filled medical personnel, friends, and family who seek to meet their needs. We pray especially for those near and dear to us. Use us as part of Your answers to their prayers, heavenly Father, to bring about strength, health, security, and companionship. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord Jesus, You accompanied the disciples as they returned to the others. Be among Your Church as it gathers anywhere around Word and Sacrament. Bless Your Church and give Your people courage and opportunity to spread the news of Your death for our sins and Your resurrection on the third day for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your gracious hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:
- 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.

Benediction

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God
 When I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the worlds
 Thy hands have made
 Thy hands have made
 I see the stars
 I hear the rolling thunder
 Thy pow'r thru'out
 The universe displayed

***CHORUS: Then sings my soul
 My Savior God to Thee
 How great Thou art
 How great Thou art
 Then sings my soul
 My Savior God to Thee
 How great Thou art
 How great Thou art***

2. And when I think
 That God His Son not sparing
 Sent Him to die
 I scarce can take it in
 That on the cross
 My burden gladly bearing
 He bled and died
 To take away my sin ***CHORUS***

3. When Christ shall come
 With shout of acclamation
 And take me home
 What joy shall fill my heart
 Then I shall bow
 In humble adoration
 And there proclaim
 My God how great Thou art ***CHORUS***