



**COMMUNITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
96 Main St. Enfield NH  
03748

(603) 632-5812  
<http://www.clcenfield.org>

Sunday, February 19, 2023  
Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Holy Communion

#### **WELCOME**

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. We pray that you will leave refreshed by the hearing of God's Word and the fellowship of this community.

#### **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.*

#### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (ELW 834)

### **GREETING**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE - next page**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the 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.*

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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

A reading from Exodus.

*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.*

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are scat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

<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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 2**

<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!**

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

A reading from 2 Peter.

*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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glorify 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.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671)

## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 INTERCESSION**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and James and our pastor, Stephanie. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats (*locally threatened waters or lands may be named*). Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. We pray for the people and lands of Turkey and Syria devastated by earthquakes, be with the thousands that weep and wail and remind us of the dawn that comes with the morning. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our town manager and assistant (Edward and Alisa) and local select board (John, Katherine, and Erik), our governor (*Christopher*) and state legislators, our president (*Joseph*) and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace*

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

We live by GOD's Grace, who gives us everything and asks that we give a portion back to him. It is for the church and its work in the community and world. There are many needs, so give to those the Holy Spirit inspires you to support.

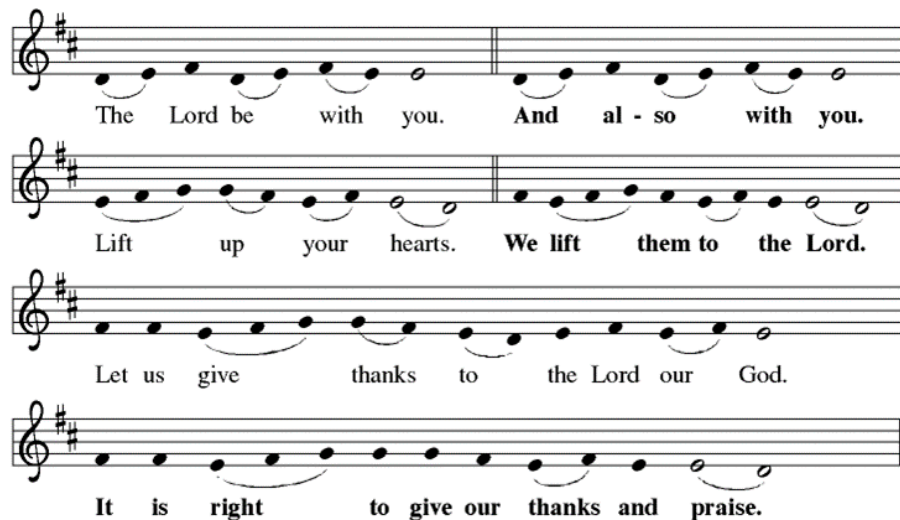
**OFFERING SONG:** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,  
that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,  
you alone are holy,  
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars;  
beneath the sea;  
within each cell;  
with every breath.

#### **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water;  
by night and day;  
across the wilderness;  
out of exile;  
into the future.

#### **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life;

near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner;  
among the poor;  
with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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.

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.

Remembering his love for us  
on the way,  
at the table,  
and to the end,

we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:

in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks  
to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit,  
in your church,  
without end.

**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and taste the joy of God!

*The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.*

**COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG**

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.

**COMMUNION HYMN**     *Beautiful Savior ELW 838*

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Holy One,

**we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *Alleluia, Song of Gladness* (ELW 318)

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

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