

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*February 11, 2024*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God’s grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

* **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women’s bathroom.

**WORSHIP THEME**

“How good, Lord to be here,” so echo Peter’s words through the ages in the words of our Transfiguration hymn. It is good to see the glory of Christ before the horrors of his Passion: to see his face shining bright before it is crowned with thorns and dark with his own blood; to hear the Father’s words of approval before we hear the word of the crowd: “Crucify!” To see the glory before the cross.

But let us make no mistake: though we see Christ’s glory, we cannot remain on the mountain. We must descend with Christ to Jerusalem, to Calvary’s cross, and to the tomb. In our Christian lives we endure the pain and suffering of the cross before we step into the glorious light of resurrection. How good it is, then, to hear the reassuring words of the Father and know that we follow the true Savior to the cross—and beyond into glory.

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***The Service of the Word***

*We gather as a congregation to hear God’s Word proclaimed and respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

**HYMN** *Renew Me, O Eternal Light* **| CW’21 689**

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

M: Our Savior commanded baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism: Scripture makes plain that we are born in the image of our father Adam and inherit a sinful nature. We would be lost forever without the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He took upon himself the curse of Adam’s sin and by his death on the cross redeemed all people. Through his resurrection he brought eternal life to all those that look to him in faith. In baptism, God unites us with Christ in His death and resurrection. We recall the meaning of baptism for our lives with these words from Luther’s Small Catechism:

**C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus my Savior I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

# absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has taken away all your sin. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. As his servant, I now forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C: ♫ God's own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free  
Lasting to eternity!**

**Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger:  
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my Baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood,  
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood!**

**There is nothing worth comparing  
To this lifelong comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring:  
Even there I'll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising,  
Still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ;  
I'm a child of paradise!**

M: Let us pray.

Holy God, mighty Lord, through your stern judgment, the unbelieving world was destroyed by the flood, but according to your great mercy, you saved Noah and his family. You engulfed stubborn Pharaoh and his army in the waters of the Red Sea but led your people through those same waters to safety on dry land. In the waters of the Jordan, your own Son was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By these signs you foreshadowed the washing that you give us in Holy Baptism.

Holding firmly to your command and promise, we ask that you would look with favor on Killian. Through this water of baptism, drown in him all sin inherited from Adam and any other evil he may do. Set him apart from the unbelieving world, and hold him safe and secure in the holy ark of your Church. Keep him always fervent in spirit and joyful in hope so that he may honor your holy name and at last receive—together with all your people—the promised inheritance of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: Christ told his disciples: “let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” Through baptism, children receive the promises of God and the salvation won by Christ.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head, and on the heart, to mark you as a redeemed child of God.

Killian John Leistekow, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in this baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

**EXHORTATION**

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who have been baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us to assist in whatever manner possible so that Killian may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: “Yes, as God gives me strength.”

**C: Yes, as God gives me strength.**

**♫ See this wonder in the making:**

**God himself this child is taking**

**As a lamb safe in his keeping,**

**His to be, awake or sleeping**

**Here we brought a child of nature;**

**Home we take a newborn creature,**

**Now God’s precious son or daughter,**

**Born again by Word and water.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** *1 Kings 19:7–18*

*Elijah covered his face in fear of seeing God’s glory. God’s grace brought comfort to the prophet in his distress.*

**7**The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” **8**So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. **9**There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

**10**He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

**11**The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. **12**After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. **13**When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

**14**He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

**15**The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. **16**Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. **17**Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. **18**Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

**PSALM** *Psalm 148, pg. 121*

**SECOND LESSON** *2 Corinthians 3:12–4:4*

*God has removed the veil from our hearts that we might know his truth and see his glory.*

**12**Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. **13**We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. **14**But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. **15**Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. **16**But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18**And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**4**Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. **2**Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. **3**And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4**The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *Mark 9:7*

**Alleluia. A voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him.” Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL** *Mark 9:1–9*

*Christ’s glory is revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration before the final part of his ministry, which will end at the cross.*

**9**And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

**2**After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. **3**His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. **4**And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

**5**Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” **6**(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

**7**Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

**8**Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

**9**As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *This Brightness, Lord***| CW’21 392**

**SERMON** *Mark 9*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*In response to God’s love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Holy Father, with the appearance of Moses and Elijah at our Lord’s Transfiguration, You reveal to us that the veil that once covered your truth is now removed and we may approach you in confident trust. Hear our prayers from your seat of mercy as we ask for your blessings.

Send Your blessing upon all pastors and servants of Your Church, that their preaching and teaching would flow from this right understanding of Christ and His work for our eternal salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty God, grant faithfulness, humility and patience to the sheep of Your flock here at Christ Lutheran Church, that in our various vocations we may strive to love You and our neighbor in all that we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, bless the families of Your Church, that parents would teach the faith to their children and that the gospel would be proclaimed in every household. Remember all expectant mothers, that they and their babies would be kept safe and healthy throughout their pregnancies. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty Father, You alone establish all authority on earth. Bless those entrusted with this responsibility both here and abroad, that they would serve with integrity and honor and for the well-being of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: God of all grace, look with compassion on those who are in need. Grant them relief and comfort through the promise of sharing in eternal glory with Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, You revealed Your glory in the Transfiguration of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who dwelt among us in the flesh. Open our eyes, that by faith we would see Him continuing to dwell among us through Word and Sacrament. Grant that we would listen to Him as He forgives and preserves us at the font, pulpit and altar. We especially ask that you would continually renew Killian and our whole congregation in your baptismal grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember on this day the glorious manifestation of Your Son’s glory 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 salvation. 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. Amen.

**C: Amen.**

**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.**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

M**:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✙ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* **| CW’21 713**

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**WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace

through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities

both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

**Look what Christ is doing!**

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

*“Now you are the body of Christ,*

*and each one of you is a part of it.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:27)*