



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 February 2021



This festival concludes the Christmas cycle that began in Advent. Today's gospel reading is the inspiration for this feast. On one level it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as God's beloved Child and Servant (an echo of the Christmas, Epiphany, and Baptism festivals). At the same time, the church's calendar is influenced by the gospel story: after His transfiguration, Jesus announces His impending death in Jerusalem. From the festival of the Transfiguration, the church turns this week to Ash Wednesday and its baptismal journey to Christ's death and resurrection celebrated during the Three Days of

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter/Easter Sunday.

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross as the minister begins:

P. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen**

P. Together, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P. Strong and faithful God,

C. **we confess that we have not lived as the body of Christ in the world. We have veiled our hearts from Your light. We have resisted Your call to follow. We have failed to exercise Your gift of love. Forgive us for the sake of Christ, heal us with Your abundant grace, and help us walk as children of light. Amen**

P. The boundless riches of Christ are the gift of God's grace to all people. In the name of Christ and by His authority, I 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. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you to follow Christ in newness of life.

C. **Amen**

GREETING

P. The light and love of God Who wonderfully made you, Who graciously redeemed you, Who calls you each by name, be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. Almighty God, on the mountain You showed Your glory in the transfiguration of Your Son. Give us the vision to see beyond the turmoil of our world and to behold the King in all His glory; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C. Amen

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1–12

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.

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

⁴Elijah 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. ⁵The 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."

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

⁹When 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." ¹⁰He 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." ¹¹As 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.

¹²Elisha 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-6

The LORD, the God of gods has spoken;

He has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,

God reveals Himself in glory.

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;

before Him there is a consuming flame,

and round about Him a raging storm.

⁴He calls the heavens and the earth from above

to witness the judgment of His people.

⁵“Gather before Me My loyal followers,

those who have made a covenant with Me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶Let the heavens declare the rightness of His cause,

for God Himself is judge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 4:3–6

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 out of darkness at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In 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. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 9:2–9

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.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

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, ³and His clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then 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.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved listen to Him!” ⁸Suddenly when they

looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

⁹As 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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *How Good, Lord, to Be Here*



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NICENE CREED

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 PEOPLE

Encouraged by the radiant light of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ, let us pray with boldness and confidence for the church, the world and all those in need.

A brief silence.

O God of light, for communities of faith around the globe, for our own congregations, for all who minister, and for all Christians who cannot gather for communal worship, that You would show us Your face in the darkness and speak Your word to all the faithful, let us pray.

C. Have mercy, O God.

O Morning Star, for the earth, for life forming in the darkness and ocean depths for creatures seen and unseen, that You would give us Your Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of our planet, let us pray.

C. Have mercy, O God.

O Sun of righteousness, for our nation's leaders, for all who work for justice in our country and in nations around the world, for the citizens every nation, that You would give to them all integrity in service, courage to choose what is right, and a thirst to work for peace, let us pray.

C. Have mercy, O God.

Beautiful Savior, for those enduring famine, for those experiencing homelessness, for the people of Yemen and all who live in war zones, for those who especially on this Valentine's Day feel lonely, for those who are abandoned and all who must live apart from their loved ones, for all who are sick or suffering, especially Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill & Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen, Carol, Sylvia, Jim and Norma, for the countless struggling with COVID-19 and for medical workers, and for all who await the vaccine, that You would bring healing and wholeness, let us pray.

C. Have mercy, O God.

As we give thanks for all who have been washed in Your grace, shower us with Your Holy Spirit until the day when we will be united with Christ and all the saints in Your heavenly reign, let us pray.

C. Your mercy is great.

Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Merciful God,

C. as You have blessed us with many gifts, so receive the offerings of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Unite us as Your body, that we may be a light to all nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ MEAL +

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

P. Lift up your hearts. C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Blessed are You ... Your mercy and might.

C. Amen

P. In the night ... and life-giving light.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Lord, God, by Your Spirit ... both now and forever.

C. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
C. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Lord, it is good for us to be here, for we have tasted Your glory in this holy meal. Continue Your goodness as we go out from here. Open our eyes to see Your face shining in every person, and send us to be Your servants in every place, for You are the life and light of all. In Jesus' name we pray.
C. Amen

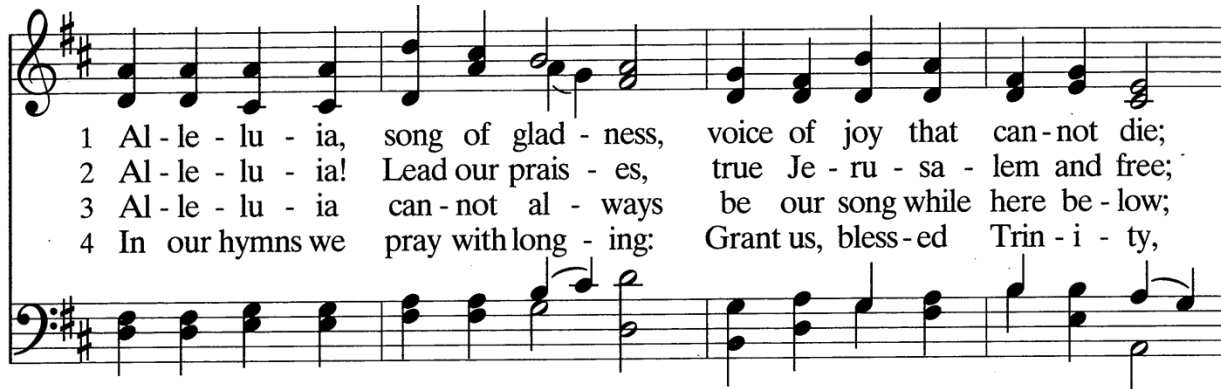
+ SENDING +

"BURYING" THE ALLELUIA

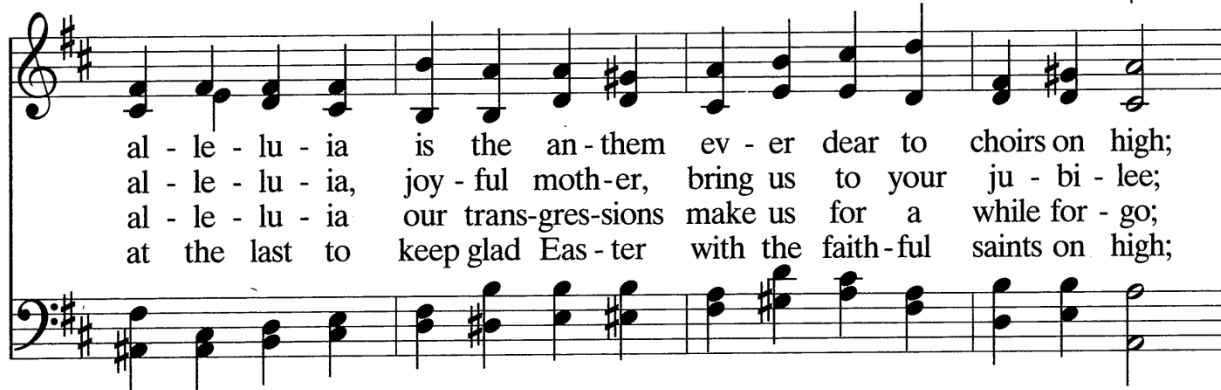
BENEDICTION

P. The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and forever.
C. Amen.

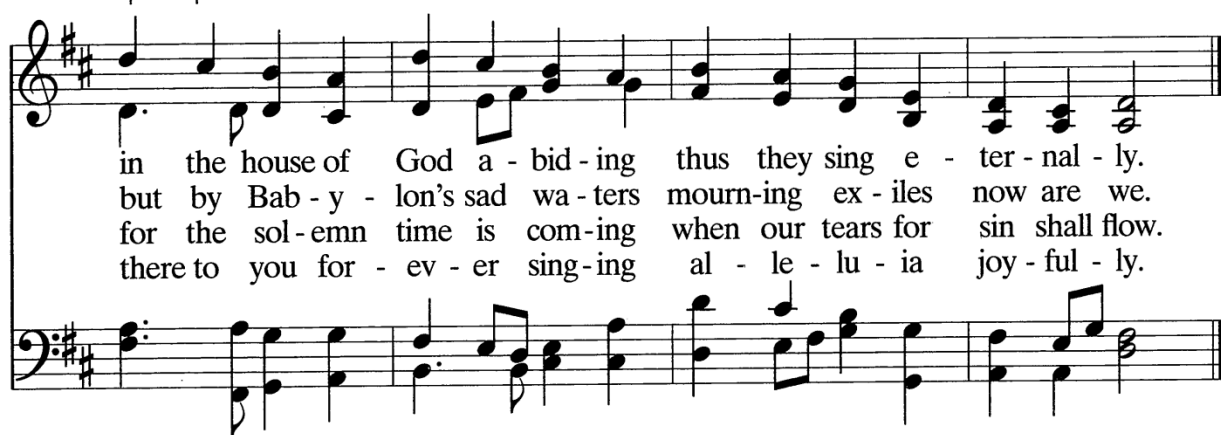
CLOSING HYMN *Alleluia! Song of Gladness*



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Lead our prais - es, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - ges - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
but by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Be light for the world.

C. Thanks be to God.

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God **Presiding:** Pastor Munter

Organist: Terry Dybsetter **Reader:** Sara Wollum

Camera: Josh Sumption **Projection:** James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson

Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason, Jerome Bruns

How to reach us:

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Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson

Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen

Bill Ningen, Carol Moon, Sylvia & Jim Pridahl

Norma Dovre

February 7, 2021

General: \$2,104.50 (\$804.50 received through eGiving)

Includes: \$1,000.00 from Hemnes Lutheran Church.

Savings: \$20.00 for Organ.

Please note the following. This is different for the February newsletter.

**Corrected since last week. With Hemnes now changing to a flat-fee of \$1,000 per month plus travel, I am changing the revenue report to include all budgeted expenses and the actual revenues for the Bethel-Hemnes Parish as a whole. The monthly payments from Hemnes Lutheran Church will be reflected in the revenues received in this report.

	Year:	2021
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$	125,474.84 *Includes all Bethel and Parish related expenses
Monthly revenue required to meet budget:	\$	10,456.24

Year to Date Actual Revenue and Budgeted Expenses Comparison-

This report is based on budgeted expenses divided evenly for each month of the calendar year. Actual expenses per month vary greatly. This analysis is to be used as a guideline, and not a full representation of the full financial health of Bethel Lutheran Church.

This report now includes revenues received from Hemne Luterhan Church as they are applied to all expenses related to the Bethel-Hemnes Joint Parish.

	Total Revenue for Month	Year to Date Revenue	Year to Date Budgeted Expense	Year to Date Difference: shortfalls shown as negative numbers	Cash Reserves Expended	Cash Reserves Repaid	Reserves Repaid Notes
January	\$7,250.77	\$7,250.77	\$10,456.24	-\$3,205.47			