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**The Tranfiguration of Our Lord**

“As they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” *2 Kings 2:11*

**AS WE GATHER**

Although many travelers to the Holy Land focus their visits on biblical sites located in Israel, there are many noteworthy sacred locations in today’s nation of Jordan, on the east side of the Jordan River. Two of these sites are the site called Tell Mar Elias, by tradition the place where the prophet Elijah was born, and Elijah’s Hill, near the Jordan River location of Jesus’ Baptism, where it is said that Elijah ascended to heaven in the whirlwind. Both sites were the location of notable Christian churches centuries ago. Elijah has long been remembered and honored by Christian people as a precursor to Jesus and an important historical figure of faith. Yet Elijah was a human being—just like us. His presence on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus and Moses reminds us of what is to come for us humans by God’s grace for the sake of our glorious and glorified Lord Jesus Christ.

**Psalm** 50:1-6

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES** *Isaiah 30:15, 18, 29*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,

**People: “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”**

Pastor: Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.

**People: For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.**

Pastor: You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept,

**People: and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the Lord, to the Rock of Israel.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: O God, our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

**People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not always brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

**People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We repent of all that is sinful in our lives, both that which we know and those things unknown to us that are against Your righteous laws.

**People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair”* (*LSB* 413)

O wondrous type! O vision fair of glory that the Church may share,

which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun He glows!

With Moses and Elijah nigh the’incarnate Lord holds converse high;

and from the cloud the Holy One bears record to the only Son.

With shining face and bright array Christ deigns to manifest today

what glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great vision’s mystery,

for which in joyful strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

**O Father, with the’eternal Son and Holy Spirit ever one,**

**we pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace to see Thy glory face to face.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**CELEBRATION OF THE DAY**

Pastor: On February 14, we commemorate Valentine, Martyr. The word “martyr” reminds us that Valentine died for confessing his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. For eighteen hundred years, Valentine’s faithful witness has inspired Christian people to faith-filled words and loving deeds.

A physician and priest in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius, Valentine lived in a time when Christians were harshly persecuted because of their religion. Arrested by Roman authorities, he received a death sentence.

 Tradition suggests that while Valentine was waiting in prison for his day of execution, he developed a friendship with the young daughter of his jailer. He told the girl about Jesus and shared his hope of heaven. On the day of his execution, he left her a note cut into a special shape. Written inside was a message of affection and encouragement. He signed the letter “your Valentine,” beginning a tradition that has changed and grown through the centuries.

 Let us pray. Lord of love, bless our remembering of the saints of ages past, including Your servant Valentine. Help us proclaim Your love in our day in word and deed as we look forward to the great reunion with all of the saints in Your heavenly kingdom. We pray in Jesus’ name.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** 2 Kings 2:1-12

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** 2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (14-18); 4:1-6

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 9:2-9

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** *“Beautiful Savior”* (*LSB* 537)

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I’d love Thee, truly I’d serve Thee,

Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,

robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,

He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,

Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration

Now and forevermore be Thine!

**SERMON *“As You Yourself Live”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

# LORD’S PRAYER (sung, *LSB*,front inside cover)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here”* (*LSB* 414)

’Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy glory fills the night;

Thy face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.

’Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beauty to behold

where Moses and Elijah stand, Thy messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be,

we hail Thy body glorified and our redemption see.

Before we taste of death, we see Thy kingdom come;

we long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.

’Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;

but since Thou bidst us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, our heavenly Father, You have again welcomed us at Your Table. We thank You for the sustenance You have given us through this Holy Meal. We bless You for the fellowship of Your Table and for joining us as one with saints on earth and saints in glory, including the prophet Elijah and Valentine. As the broken bread was once scattered as seed upon the fields and after being harvested was made one, so let Your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Your kingdom, for Yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

**People: Amen.**

**FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA** *Ecclesiastes 3:1–4, 7*

Pastor: This week with Ash Wednesday, we begin our observance of Lent. To highlight the penitential nature of the season, it is the Church’s custom to suspend the use of the word “Alleluia,” which means “Praise the Lord.” A tradition has been in place since the fifth century not to use the joyful word “Alleluia” in worship from the conclusion of worship on the final Sunday before Lent, which is today, until the first service on Easter Sunday. The text of our closing hymn, “Alleluia, Song of Gladness,” dates back to the eleventh century and links us to a millennium of God’s people at worship. We now repeat words from the Book of Ecclesiastes, which remind us that there are appropriate times for all things, including a time to keep silence, which we will observe regarding use of the “Alleluia” throughout Lent.

Pastor: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die;

**People: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

Pastor: a time to break down, and a time to build up;

**People: a time to weep, and a time to laugh;**

Pastor: a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

**People: a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.**

Pastor: As part of our observance of a holy Lent as it begins this week, we now say farewell to Alleluia until the time of our rejoicing anew at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

**People: Alleluia! Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”* (*LSB* 417)

Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;

alleluia is the anthem ever raised by choirs on high;

in the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia, thou resoundest, true Jerusalem and free;

alleluia, joyful mother, all thy children sing with thee,

but by Babylon’s sad waters mourning exiles now are we.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;

alleluia, our transgressions make us for a while forgo;

for the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.

Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, grant us, blessèd Trinity,

at the last to keep Thine Easter with Thy faithful saints on high;

there to Thee forever singing alleluia joyfully.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**