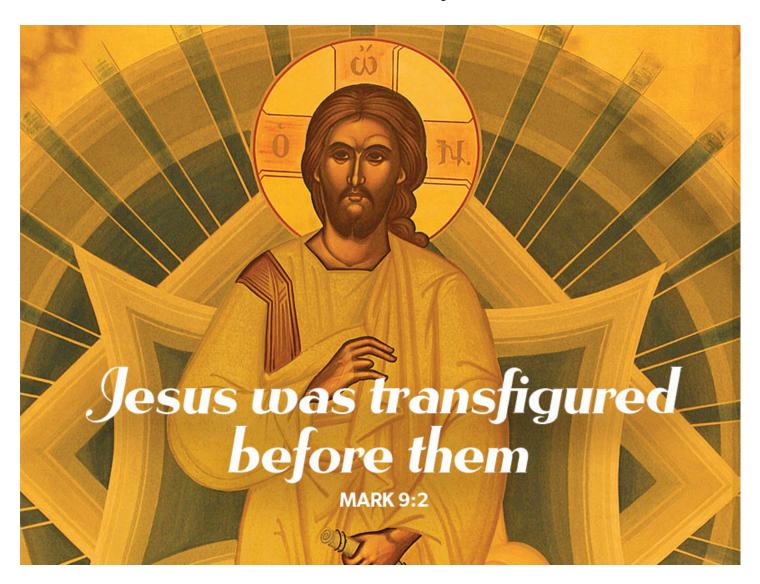
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church SUNDAY February 11th, 2024



WELCONE,

to our Church Family.

We're Glad You're Here!

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar Flowers** were given today by Dennis Morgan in memory of Paula Morgan. The **Throne Flowers** were given today in honor of Henry Haake's 13th birthday by his family.

Today's Worship Theme

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

Readings and Psalm

2 Kings 2:1-12

Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha

Psalm 50:1-6

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ

Mark 9:2-9

Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son

Today's Hymns from The Tower The Westminster Strike Welcome and Announcements

Church Carillon

PRELUDE

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

Anderson Rambler, bass-baritone

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

GREETING

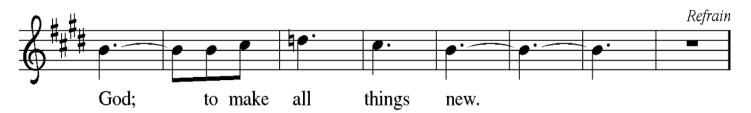
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

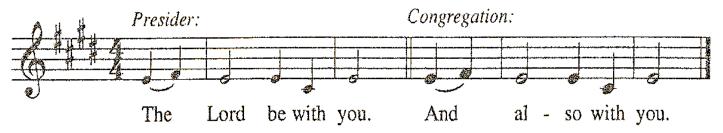
HYMN OF PRAISE







PRAYER OF THE DAY



Let us pray.

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

¹Now 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: Psalm 50:1-6





¹The mighty one, God the | LORD, has spoken; calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.

²Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,

God shines | forth in glory. R

³Our God will come and will | not keep silence; with a consuming flame before, and round about a | raging storm.

⁴God calls the heavens and the earth | from above to witness the judgment | of the people.

⁵"Gather before me my | loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed | it with sacrifice."

⁶The heavens declare the rightness | of God's cause, for it is God | who is judge. R

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

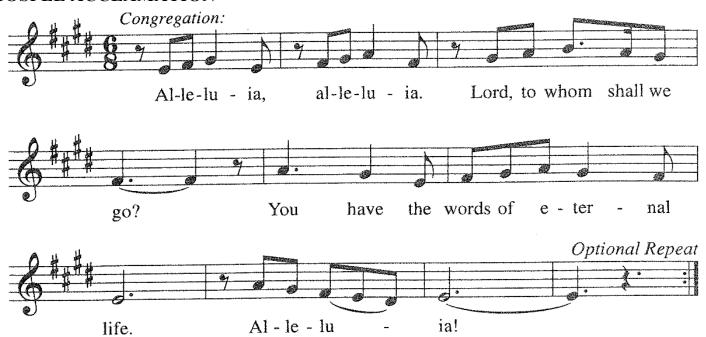
³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²Six 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 any more, 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

ELW 318

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition the following response is given:

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

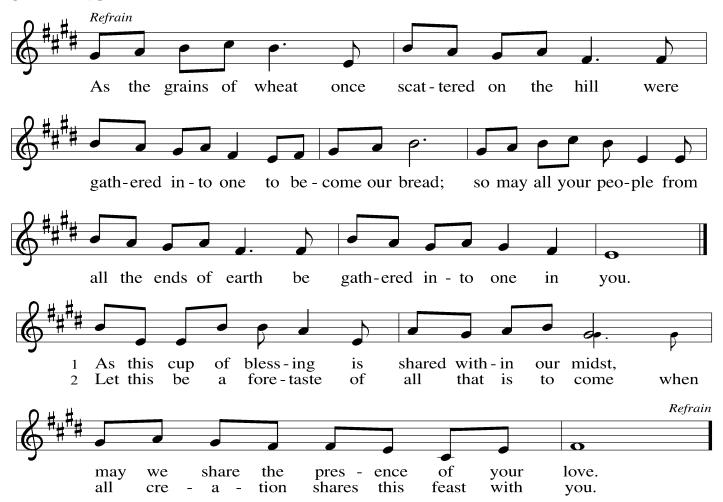
SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Mr. Rambler

OFFERING

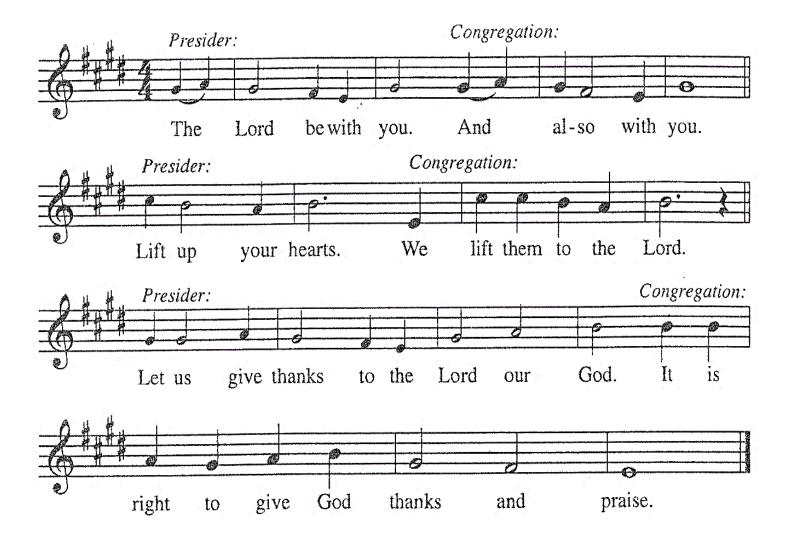


OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

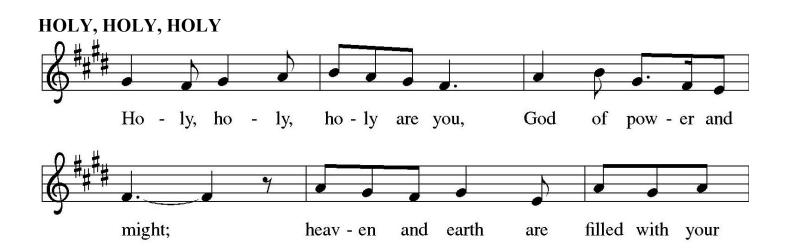
Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

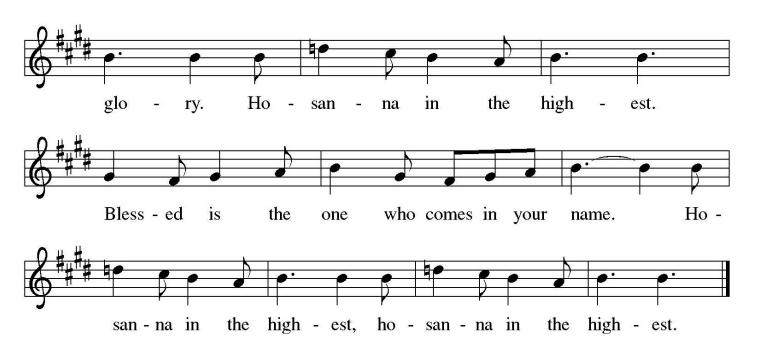
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

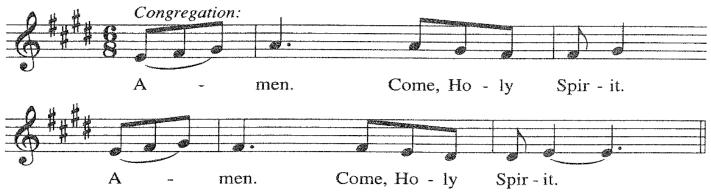
You are indeed holy... we pray for His coming again even as we cry...

Presider: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

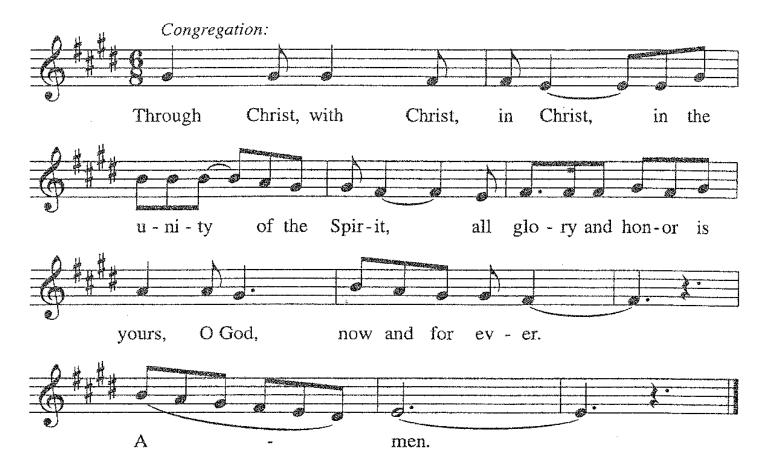


Send now, we pray... And your whole creation...

Presider: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.



This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.



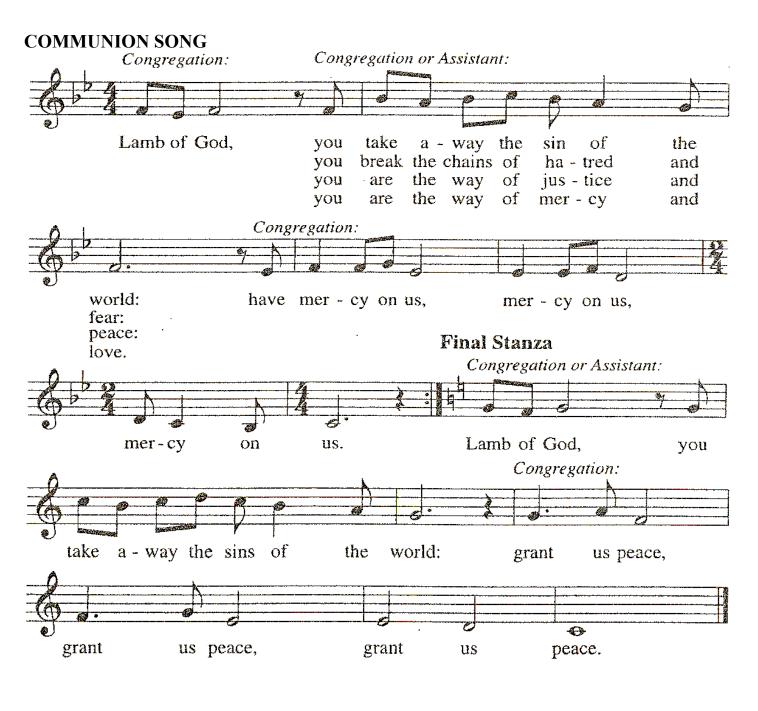
LORD'S PRAYER

Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.



COMMUNION HYMN

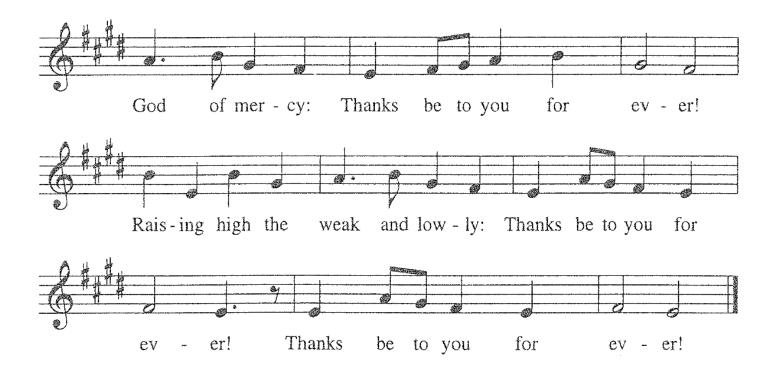
Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**.





PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW 853

BLESSING

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Promised Land

Dr. Ralph Simpson (1933-2024)

Music Notes

In honor of Black History Month, our service music will feature compositions by Black composers.

Moses Hogan, composer, arranger, pianist, and conductor, was a graduate of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He also studied at New York's Juilliard School of Music and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Hogan served as editor of the new Oxford Book of Spirituals, an expansive collection of spirituals, published by Oxford University Press. With over 70 published works, Hogan's arrangements have become staples in the repertoires of high school, college, church, community, and professional choirs worldwide. As is particularly evident in his spirituals for solo voice, Hogan fused his love of the human voice, his study of classical piano literature, and his musical roots in the African-American Baptist Church.

Dr. Ralph Simpson was an organist, composer/arranger, and retired chairman of the Department of Music at Tennessee State University. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, he was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in music from Michigan State University. He also taught at Alabama State University, Dillard University, and Fisk University. Of note, Dr. Simpson served as church organist at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where his friend, the Honorable Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was pastor.

In our prayers today we will remember

Barb and Tom Hamilton, Dave Paul, Eleanor Grunden, Lyn Delon-Fellonsteps, Mary Hardesty, Pat Adams, Linda Shaffer, Chris Collard, Chrissy Sturtz, and Carol Rohr, Mary Gainer, and Linda & Will Vandevander.

Chancel Choir Practice, every Wednesday 7:00 pm

Bell Choir 6:00 pm

Handbell ensemble will rehearsal February 21, 28, March 6, and 13 from 6:00-6:50 in preparation to play in worship on March 17. We need ringers to have an ensemble, so please consider making this short-term commitment to enrich worship through ringing!

Adult Sunday School Getting Ready for Easter

What is a spiritual discipline? During this series of lessons, we'll explore spiritual disciplines that help get us ready for Easter, for resurrection, including our own. What is the place in our daily Christian lives for such practices as meditation, fasting, simplicity, and submission? And is there joy is this preparation, these disciplines? The answer is a resounding *yes*! Please join us as we meet each Sunday for Bible study and fellowship at 11:30, top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: Wrestling With Doubt by Adam Hamilton 10:00 am

Struggling with uncertainties on your spiritual journey? Whether a longtime Christian or someone brand new to the faith, get to know the God who is unafraid of hard questions. Hamilton draws from the wisdom of the Bible to approach reservations with honesty and insight. Learn how doubt can drive you to a deeper encounter with the Lord!

Capital Campaign Report

Phase One Projects	\$337,000
Funds raised	\$239,109
Interest	\$ 1,706
Building Fund	\$ 30,000
Remaining funds	\$ 66,185
to be raised	

Download the St Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo, that's it.

To take advantage of all the app's features you

must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, see the church calendar, and you can even give electronically.



Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday February 14th 7:00 PM

Wednesday Community Lenten Service

Soup Supper 5:30, Worship 6:30

February 21st St. Paul's Lutheran

February 28th Grace UCC

March 6th Central Presbyterian
March 13th St. Timothy's Episcopal

March 20th First Baptist

Holy Week at St. Paul's Lutheran

Palm Sunday
March 24, 10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday
Community Stations of the Cross
March 28, 7:00 PM
March 29, 12:00 noon

(St Mary's Roman Catholic)

Good Friday March 29, 7:00 PM
Easter Sunrise March 31, 7:30 AM
Easter Morning March 31, 10:00 AM

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GATHERING HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW 631

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HYMN OF THE DAY Alleluia, Song of Gladness ELW 318

Public Domain

COMMUNION HYMN Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

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SENDING HYMN When Morning Gilds the Skies ELW 853

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Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Rev. Mark Kreemer

Director of Music Dr. Abigail Haake

Lectors Scott Larson

Assisting Minister Carol Stoner

Communion Assistants Carol Stoner & Gary Collard

Greeter Gary Collard

Sacristy Lynda Klein

Ushers John & Linda Litman,

Carol Marlow, Mark Waltz

Soundboard Jim Johnson

Video/Live-Stream John Stanko

Transfiguration: Amazing Then and Now

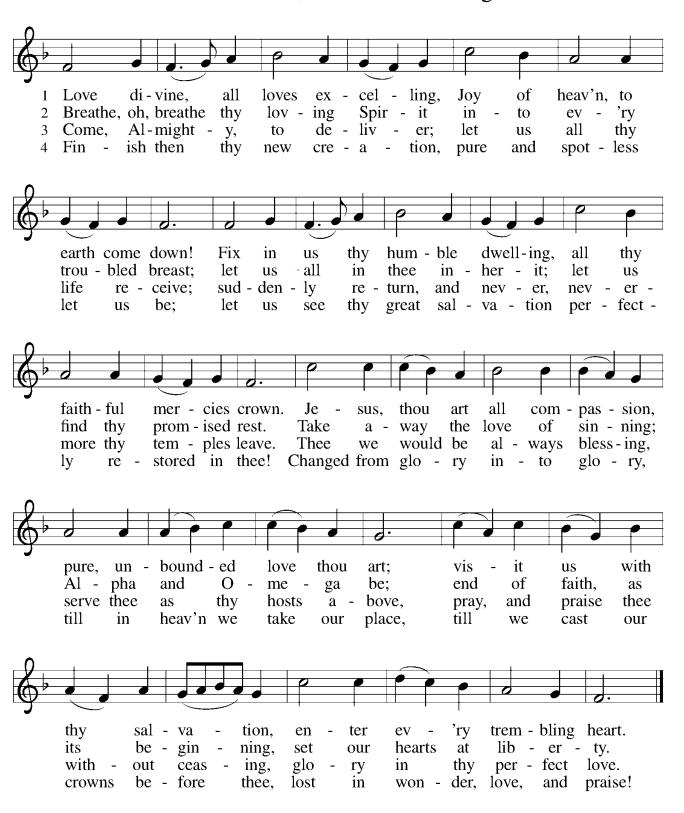
Imagine what would happen if someone from the days of Jesus were suddenly transported to our present. How would someone accustomed to walking everywhere respond to driving in a car at top speed, let alone flying in a jet? How would someone who spends their life depending on—at best—oil lamps for light respond to electric lights? It is fun to muse at how people might respond as we reflect on how sophisticated we are.

Now imagine if the scene were reversed. How would someone accustomed to understanding much in the world around them respond to an event as otherworldly as the transfiguration? We understand volcanoes and the northern lights. We can explain lightning and thunder. We know about germs and disease transmission. So what would we do when confronted with something so amazing, awesome, and unexplainable?

The transfiguration is one of those ancient events that still puzzle us. What really happened to Jesus that day? Since we cannot go back to that time, we are left to speculate. We take stabs in the dark and make educated guesses, but at the end of the day, we are left with a holy mystery to ponder.

Whatever happened that day, there is a timeless spiritual reality behind the physical details Mark gives us. God sometimes uses extreme and amazing methods to transform us when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. God's spirit transfigured Jesus then. That same Spirit is still transforming people today. We don't have to explain first-century miracles to trust that God's transforming Spirit is timeless and at work within each of us today. We do not have to understand everything to see the beauty of God at work in the world, continually transfiguring us into the people we were created to be.

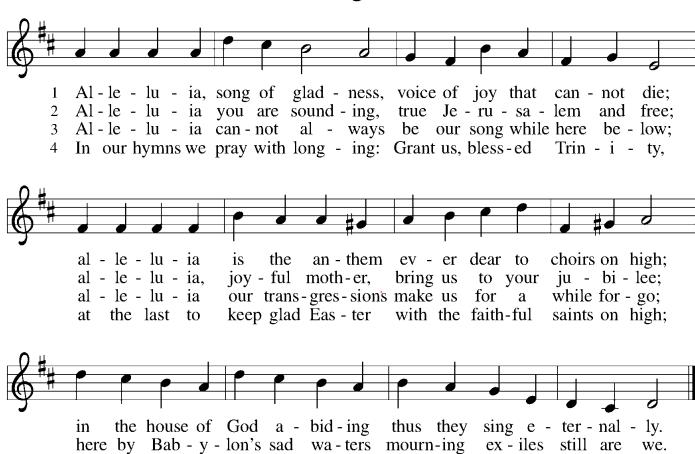
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Alleluia, Song of Gladness



com-ing

sing-ing

when our tears for

al - le - lu - ia

sin shall flow.

joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

sol-emn time is

you for - ev - er

for the

there to

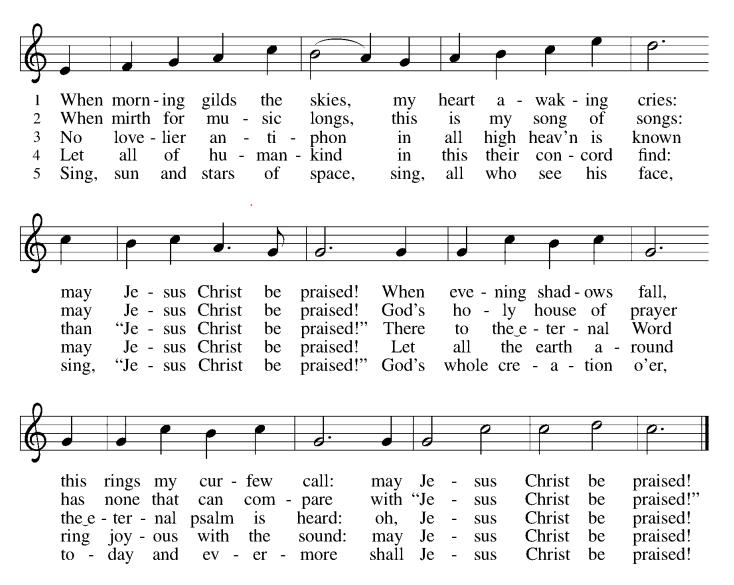
Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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When Morning Gilds the Skies



Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt. Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896