

First St. John Lutheran Church

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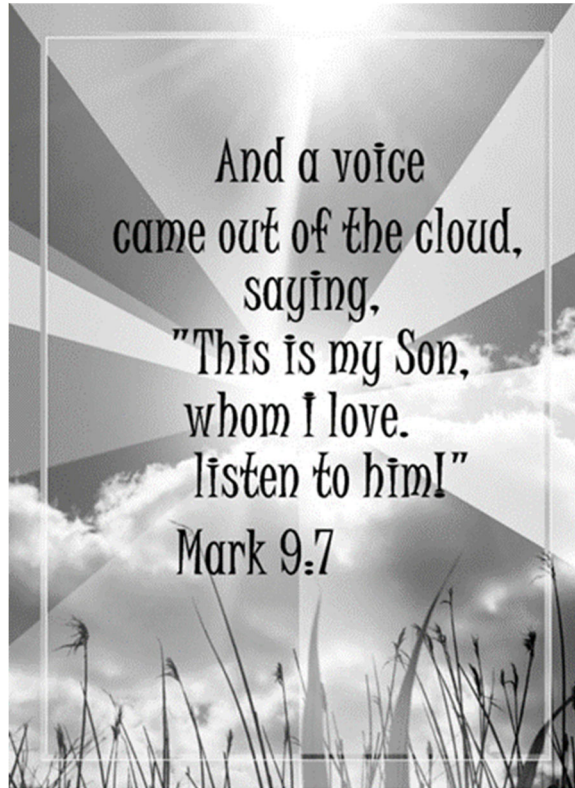
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

February 14, 2021

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Transfiguration of Our Lord

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Please review some of our guidelines below.

Masks must be worn. We have some available to take if you don't have one. Some are cloth masks and can be taken home to wash and reuse. There are also disposable masks.

Please do not congregate in the Narthex (entrance area) either as you arrive or leave.

To minimize direct contact, we will use the outside aisles only for entry and exit. The center aisle will be used for communion, special needs, or emergency exit.

Ushers will fill the pews from the front to the back of the church and dismiss from the back to the front. Please follow their directions. We are sorry everyone cannot have their usual seat.

NOTE: We can speak the congregational responses behind our masks. Dr. Tony and Annette Slater will provide music. The service will be recorded and published to the website. We are now live streaming the service on our church website, www.firststjohn.com

Elders will wear gloves. You can get a bulletin at the check-in table when you walk in. Please do not leave your bulletin in the pew when you exit; take it home or put it in the recycling bin at the front door.

There is a small wooden church just to the right of the main door when you come in. It has a slot for your offering.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take the left set of steps down. The ladies room is at one end of the hallway, and the men's room is at the other. Return to the Narthex using the opposite set of stairs. Please, one person only in the restroom area.

Diaper Changing: A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, please call the church office during the week to check on availability.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song *"How Great is Our God"* (Praise Singers)

Invocation

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity (+) one God, Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Merciful God, we confess that we are not perfect. We have said
and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your
redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted
your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God.
Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our
failures, and the courage to try again.

C: Amen.

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news: You are loved and
forgiven in the name of (+) Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of
all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

PSALM: Psalm 50:1-6

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

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.**

READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*The epiphany, or revelation of God, at Jesus' transfiguration is renewed in every
believer's life when the light of Christ shines in the heart to reveal God's glory.*

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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse *"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"* v. 1 & 4 No. 318
(sung by Annette)

*Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.*

*In our hymns we pray with longing: Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high;
There to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 9.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: 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.*

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 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.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON		Pastor Rayl
Sermon Hymn	<i>"How Good, Lord, to Be Here"</i>	No. 315
		(sung by Annette)

(Please stand)

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,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again 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.

The Offering *(As you exit, please place your offering in the wooden church in the Narthex if you have not already done so.)*

Musical Offertory

Dr. Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and the treasures you entrust to us. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us, Lord.

C: Your mercy is great.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

The Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Dismissal

P: Go in peace and live in the Light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn	<i>"Arise, Your Light Has Come"</i>	No. 314
		(sung by Annette)
Postlude		Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS: Dick Haar, Bob Hecklinger

SOLOIST: Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD: Andy Hodges

2021 EASTER FLOWER SALE
SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



It's time to order the flowers that will decorate the church on Easter morning, April 4th. The price is \$10.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth, or tulip. Fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. The final Sunday to order will be February 28th. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks out to: **First St. John Lutheran.**

Deadline for placing orders is Wednesday, March 3rd.

Number of plants @ \$9.00 each _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Type of plant: _____
(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

February 14, 2021

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Same Piece of Cloth

Today tells the story of the transfiguration, when Jesus took three of his disciples up a high mountain apart by themselves: "And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white." Here right before their eyes, Jesus was arrayed in all his glory, in clothes like we have never seen before. Or, have we?

For, in fact, the garment Jesus wears on this day is directly related to some other garments that we have seen before, many of them on Sunday. They are all woven together. They are all part of the same piece of cloth.

At the time of the baptismal bath, it is the custom to clothe those who are drenched with water in white or to drape on them a white tunic. When children commune for the first time, many are dressed in white, just as they are again when they affirm their baptismal faith at confirmation. Those who lead and assist in worship wear white robes (called albs). And then, of course, there is that Easter-colored cloth draped over the baptized at funerals: the funeral pall.

All of those churchly garments point us to the dazzling raiment we will one day wear in heaven on the ultimate sabbath, when we too are transformed and transfigured. All of these garments are cut from the same piece of cloth: God's love for the world and God's fierce determination never to let death have the final word.

The swaddling clothes of Bethlehem, the grave linens neatly folded at the empty tomb, the clothing we use in worship, the radiant clothes we will one day wear in heaven--they are all from the same fabric. A love from God that will never let us go. Even in the midst of death, this love always, always speaks of life.