

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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The community of Apostles Lutheran Church warmly welcomes you to worship today!

As Lutheran Christians, we proclaim that there is nothing, no human action that we can undertake, to earn God's love or the gift of God's grace. It is a gift promised and given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh. It is a gift given to everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or background. This Easter promise, this gift of grace, frees us from the fear of having to earn God's love and it moves us to simply try to love our neighbor as best we can. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others and proclaim that there is a place for you at Christ's table.

Welcome, celebrate this good news with us!

Pastor Peter Edwardsen

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH
Service of Holy Communion

Transfiguration of Our Lord
The Last Sunday after Epiphany
February 11th, 2024

The Sundays after Epiphany began with the baptism of Jesus and ends with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of the baptism of Jesus, 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 the face of Jesus because the same God who created light in the first place has shown 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.

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **C: Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.

P: Hear the good news: 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.

All: Amen.

Gloria

“Glory be to God in Heaven”

(pg. 204 ELW - Verse 3)

*Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!*

Prayer of the Day

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together the prayer for this day, February 11th, the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

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.

Gathering Hymn: “Arise, Your Light Has Come” #314 ELW

*Arise, your light has come! The Spirit’s call obey; show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive’s liberty,
good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the
wing, God’s pow’r will make us strong.*

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-6

50:1 The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

50:3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

50:4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

50:5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

50:6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem: “Lord, Lead Us On” by Joseph M. Martin
Performed by Phyllis Griffiths.**

Please rise, if you are able, for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Acclamation
“Celtic Alleluia” pg. 174 ELW

***Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.***

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to the followers of Jesus after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 9th chapter.

All: Glory to you O Lord.

After the reading

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *The Rev. Peter Edwardsen*

Please rise if you are able.

Hymn of the Day: “How Good Lord to be Here” #315 ELW

How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night; your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.

How good, Lord, to be here, your beauty to behold where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be, we hail your body glorified and our redemption see.

Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come; we long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.

How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain; but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Prayers and Concerns of the Community

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” #752 ELW

(sung three times)

*Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.*

D: As we celebrate the Word of God embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

D: We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

Deacon or worship assistant continues with the prayers of intercession.

D: Knowing that 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.

All: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Please be seated.

Offering

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts in this season and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **All: Amen.**

Please rise if you are able.

Offertory music: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” #184 ELW

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory prayer:

D: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. You meet us at this table, and we receive what we seek and are called to follow your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

All: Amen

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

**All: It is right to give our thanks
and praise.**

Preface: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(#193 ELW)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen, amen, amen.*

Eucharistic Prayer:

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore his salutary command, his life giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to life as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer:

P: And now let us pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us.

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.

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)
(#194 ELW)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

(Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

P: At the table of Christ, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

C: Amen!

Please be seated.

As sinners redeemed not by our own actions but by God's promise of grace alone Lutherans practice an open table: Christ invites all to the table. All who desire to receive communion are welcome. Christ turns no one away.

Ushers will direct you when to approach the altar rail. Communion trays contain empty cups for wine, as well as filled cups of grape juice in the center for those who cannot drink wine. If you have a gluten sensitivity, please tell the pastor as he approaches with the bread and he will offer you to take from the tray of gluten-free wafers.

If you are unable to approach the rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please let the ushers know.

Communion Hymn: “Beautiful Savior” #838 ELW

*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 sorrowing 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!*

After all have received communion the community stands and sings three times:

*Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your Kingdom.*

Table Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in you in his grace, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Canticle: “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” 207 ELW

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done. Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Lord, 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.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING

Blessing

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

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Shine, Jesus, Shine" #671 ELW

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me. [Refrain]

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever-changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me. [Refrain]

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

All: Thanks be to God!

We pray for those celebrating a Birthday:

2/13 Thea Morrissey



Please keep in prayer...

. . . all communities suffering and mourning due to natural disasters.

. . . all communities and peoples that suffer from intolerance, injustice, racism, and violence.

. . . all areas of the world living under threat of violence and war.

We stand with those communities and organizations, faith-based and secular, that work towards healing, justice, and peace.

We pray that the Holy Spirit brings comfort to those who mourn, strength to those who advocate for change, and peace to those who struggle to make sense of the senseless.

God's purpose for the church is to witness to God's grace, forgiveness, compassion, and justice. We fulfill this promise by serving and caring for your local and global communities.



***The flowers on the altar are given by Paul Goley,
in Honor of his grandchildren.***

Today's Altar Volunteers: ***Deacon: Mark L., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter & Usher: Paul G.,
Readers: Connie T., Mark L.,
Set Up: Sylvia D., Clean Up: Connie T.***

February 18th Altar Volunteers: ***Deacon: David S., Acolyte:
Nicole G.,
Greeter: Barb S., Usher: Carol B.,
Readers: Laura E., David S.,
Set Up: Carol B., & Clean Up: Barb S.***

What Do We Say About...? - Join us after worship in the quad room starting on the 18th, and every Sunday throughout the season of Lent as we learn more about how we are called to live out our Lutheran perspective of faith in our daily lives.

We will be using several of the ELCA's published Social Statements on such topics as politics, the death penalty, education, and caring for creation, to guide our discussions and learn just what it is that we do say about living out our lives in the world today and tomorrow!

February 14th: Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm.

February 22nd: Food Closet 1-3pm.

January 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$18,429.75

Year to Date Expenses: \$14,084.48

Year to Date Net Contributions: \$4,345.27

(For more information, please see Gene Abel or Joan Tartamosa)

***If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, there is a
signup sheet in the Narthex.***

- **The Vanco system for online giving can be found on the Apostles' website. Any questions, please see Frank or Nick. Thank you.**
- **We are collecting the following: Linens--towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies-- Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, tubing, syringes, etc. Also, dog food, empty ink cartridges of all types, and pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.**