

Bethany Lutheran Church

LIFE SUNDAY

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 19, 2023

8:00 & 9:30 AM



WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship. Here are some things to remember as we are gathered together today:

Before worship, talk to God! (see inside cover of hymnal for pre-service prayer prompts)

During worship, let God talk to you!

After worship, talk to one another; and if you're a visitor, please stop by the Connections table before you leave today and capture the QR codes for more information.

Parents of Young Children: *We love to have children in worship.* God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to completely suppress it in God's house. We know the presence of children in worship is a gift to the church! It is in the Lord's house that we learn how to listen and speak to our God with our brothers and sisters in faith. Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of those leading worship. Children learn how to worship by copying you. If you have a need, we have "worship bags" in the Narthex filled with items to help children and families during worship. There is a **Cry Room** across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You will still be able to hear the worship service; and thus be able to continue your worship of the Lord.

Please place cell phones and electronic devices on mute as you join us in worship this morning. Thank you.

PRELUDE:

Organ

"Hyfrydol", "St. Columba", and "Old Hundredth" from Ten Hymn Preludes, Set I

~ Healey Willan

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here”

LSB 414

1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy
2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy
3 Ful - fill - er of the past And
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We
5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet

glo - ry fills the night; Thy face and gar - ments,
beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -
hope of things to be, We hail Thy bod - y
see Thy king - dom come; We long to hold the
we may not re - main; But since Thou bidst us

like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.
glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.
leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

OPENING VERSICLES:

Leader: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Leader: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

People: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Leader: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

People: Teach me Your paths.

Leader: Sanctify us in Your truth.

People: Your Word is truth.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN: *"Sing Praise to the God of Israel"* LSB 936

1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -

vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death

Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our

might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Leviticus 25:8-12*

“Count seven of these years seven times for a total of 49 years. On the tenth day of the seventh month, the special day for the payment for sin, sound rams’ horns throughout the country. Set apart the fiftieth year as holy, and proclaim liberty to everyone living in the land. This is your jubilee year. Every slave will be freed in order to return to his property and to his family. That fiftieth year will be your jubilee year. Don’t plant or harvest what grows by itself or pick grapes from the vines in the land. The jubilee year will be holy to you. You will eat what the field itself produces. – GW ®

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *2 Peter 1:16-21*

When we apostles told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we didn’t base our message on clever myths that we made up. Rather, we witnessed his majesty with our own eyes. For example, we were eyewitnesses when he received honor and glory from God the Father and when the voice of our majestic God spoke these words to him: “This is my Son, whom I love and in whom I delight.” We heard that voice speak to him from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You’re doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts. First, you must understand this: No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation. No prophecy ever originated from humans. Instead, it was given by the Holy Spirit as humans spoke under God’s direction. – GW ®

CHILDREN’S SERMON

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 17:1-9*

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John (the brother of James) and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.

Jesus' appearance changed in front of them. His face became as bright as the sun and his clothes as white as light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them and were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it's good that we're here. If you want, I'll put up three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He was still speaking when a bright cloud overshadowed them. Then a voice came out of the cloud and said, "This is my Son, whom I love and with whom I am pleased. Listen to him!"

The disciples were terrified when they heard this and fell facedown on the ground. But Jesus touched them and said, "Get up, and don't be afraid!" As they raised their heads, they saw no one but Jesus.

On their way down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen. Wait until the Son of Man has been brought back to life." – GW ®

RESPONSORY:

Leader: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

TEN COMMANDMENTS: *Exodus 20:2-17*

**You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant,
his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

APOSTLES' CREED: (catholic means the universal Christian Church*)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell. 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.**

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.**



1 Je - sus on the moun - tain peak Stands a - lone in
 2 Trem - bling at His feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
 3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came: God pro - claim - ing
 4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets



glo - ry blaz - ing; Let us, if we dare to speak,
 li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law
 in its thun - der Je - sus as the Son by name!
 sing be - fore Him, First and Last and on - ly One.



Join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.
 Shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing:
 Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der,
 All cre - a - tion shall a - dore Him!



Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!

SERMON: *“Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land”*

Text: Leviticus 25:8-12

1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your
 3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; His bound - less
 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He chang - es

strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
 eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -
 mer - cy will pro - vide. Trust, and en - dur - ing
 not who holds you dear; On - ly be - lieve, and

it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.
 you will see That Christ is all e - ter - nal - ly.

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maralee at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon,
 with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world,
 and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith,
 let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this nation, for our cities and communities,
 and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous,
and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless,
for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison,
let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them,
let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For ... *(additional prayers inserted here)*... let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul,
let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD:

Leader: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

MORNING PRAYER: *(Luther's Small Catechism)*

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger;
and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil,
that all my doings and life may please You.
For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING:

Leader: Let us bless the Lord,

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son,
and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Alleluia, Song of Gladness"

LSB 417

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while
4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed

can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions
Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter

Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of
All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -
Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn
With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -

God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.
ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

POSTLUDE: "Festival" from Three Pieces for Organ

Organ

~ Healey Willan

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“’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here” LSB 414

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“Sing Praise to the God of Israel” LSB 936

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“Jesus on the Mountain Peak” LSB 415

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“Fight the Good Fight” LSB 664

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“Nunc Dimittis”

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“Alleluia, Song of Gladness” LSB 417

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66 alt. Music: John Goss, 1800-50.
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TODAY we welcome Rev. Dr. James Lamb and wife, Roxanne. This is the fifth time Dr. Lamb has preached to us on our Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. He is retired from Lutherans for Life as executive director where he served for many years. He is passionate about God's creation from conception to end of life. A quote from him while serving with Lutherans for Life is " *The first truth of life is that every life is the handiwork of God. The Psalmist says that God 'knitted' (Psalm 139:13) each of us together in our mother's womb. Job and Isaiah talk about God shaping and forming us in the womb. Yes, the truth of life is, every life is the work of God's hands.*" Many of you will remember his presentations on Owen's Mission. Owen's Mission is a project begun by Dr. Lamb, when his grandson Owen died during prenatal surgery at 21 weeks. To remember Owen, Dr. Lamb made it a goal to present *Touch of Life* fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country and teach students the value of life. Bethany's fetal models are used at our school and you have seen them at other events at Bethany. "Retired" he is not! He now serves as life advocate with Lutheran Family Services in Iowa where the Lamb's reside. Lutheran Family Services mission is

to "Walk with people who are experiencing hard times and are there for them just as God has been there for us." Their values are "Grace, Life, Family, Compassion, Accountability and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into this world to redeem us. Jesus is the cornerstone of our ministry and the focus of all that we do in serving people." We at Bethany want to be advocates as well. This Sanctity of Human Life Sunday at Bethany is a time we hear and learn from Dr. Lamb... a time to gain wisdom to be an advocate for life.

AS ADVOCATES we will continue our reach out to New Life Beginning and His Nesting Place, both are homes in Long Beach and reach out to women in crises pregnancies and children in many compassionate ways.

1) New Life Beginnings would appreciate spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, gift cards for Costco or Sam's Club, or financial donations at newlb.org.

2) His Nesting Place would appreciate laundry soap, financial donation of gift cards (think Script table) or donation at hisnestingplace.org.

Gift cards and financial contributions can be placed in the offering box, and food and laundry items in the box in Narthex of the church. ~ Community Impact Committee

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR TODAY'S SERMON OR PREVIOUS SERMONS AGAIN...

You can hear them as podcasts on our website www.bethanylutheran.org.