

Letter Received “After prayerful consideration, I have been led by the Holy Spirit to return the call extended to me by your congregation. My heart and prayers go out to your students, staff, and members there at Immanuel. The needs and opportunities at your congregation are truly great and while I would be humbled and honored to serve alongside you in the work of God’s Kingdom, I believe that the Lord wants me to continue to serve Him at Messiah. My family and I will continue to keep you all in our prayers and pray that the Holy Spirit will lead the right servant to your congregation soon. Your sister in Christ, Valerie Hammett”

Last Week WH – 34 | **Cleaner (2/20):** Custodio | **Acolyte (2/21):** Mason K.
General = \$1,346 | Issitt Memorial = \$100 | **Total Offering** = \$1,446

Mon 2 Kings 2:1-12 Elijah was leaving Canaan along the route of Israel’s entry; Gilgal, Bethel, and Jericho lay within a few hours’ walk through this revered territory (1-4). Elisha wanted to stay close to Elijah before he left this world behind (no stopover in the cemetery), whereas Elijah wasn’t so sure God wanted his departure to be a spectator event. Even so, God allowed Elisha to not only see Elijah’s ascension but also to walk in his footsteps (12).

Tues Mark 9:2-9 Three disciples were eye-witnesses of His Transfiguration—which was the point of Jesus taking them along; besides, they would also hear the Father say, “*This is my beloved Son; so listen up!*” Now, what were Moses and Elijah doing there? Luke tells us that they conversed with Jesus about the decease/death which He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem, God’s method to deliver human souls from punishment.

Ash Wednesday 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Which is the more important thought in these verses? 1) God pleading with sinners to surrender? 2) Jesus being the sin-bearing Substitute for us sinners? 3) God crediting righteousness to us sinners in/because of Jesus? 4) God pleading with sinners to appropriate His grace before it’s too late? Well, everything is tied together in one big bundle of God’s love for sinners – from beginning to end. Praise our gracious God!

Thurs Isaiah 59:12-20 Once-a-year repentance isn’t enough, nor is once per week—simply because our transgressions *multiply* 24/7, and we know it (12). (Details in vv. 13-15.) So God decided to end the debacle, using His own Son to *establish His own righteousness* (16-17), and thereby set things right for all humanity (18-19). To be more specific, the *Redeemer will come to Zion*—which means that Jesus will come to God’s repentant people (20).

Fri Luke 18:9-14 Humility and repentance are precious in God’s sight, and while a self-righteous fraud will humiliate others in order to make himself feel superior, God humbles us in order to elevate us to Himself. So the sinful pride and sanctimony of the Pharisee needed to be brought down, whereas the repentant IRS officer was already being elevated by God’s loving hand.

Sat Acts 21:15-25 The Apostle Paul packed his on-board luggage and headed for Jerusalem—where Christians received him gladly (11-18). However, they wanted clarification about Paul’s practice in matters of sanctification (19-22). So they put Paul to the test—to demonstrate that he did not disregard the ceremonial law in his own religious life (23-24). It was a different matter with gentile converts: Paul’s practice was approved—that gentile converts were under no obligation to observe Jewish customs, but they should stay clear of idolatry, not offend Jewish sensitivities, and avoid sex sins (25). Stay tuned.

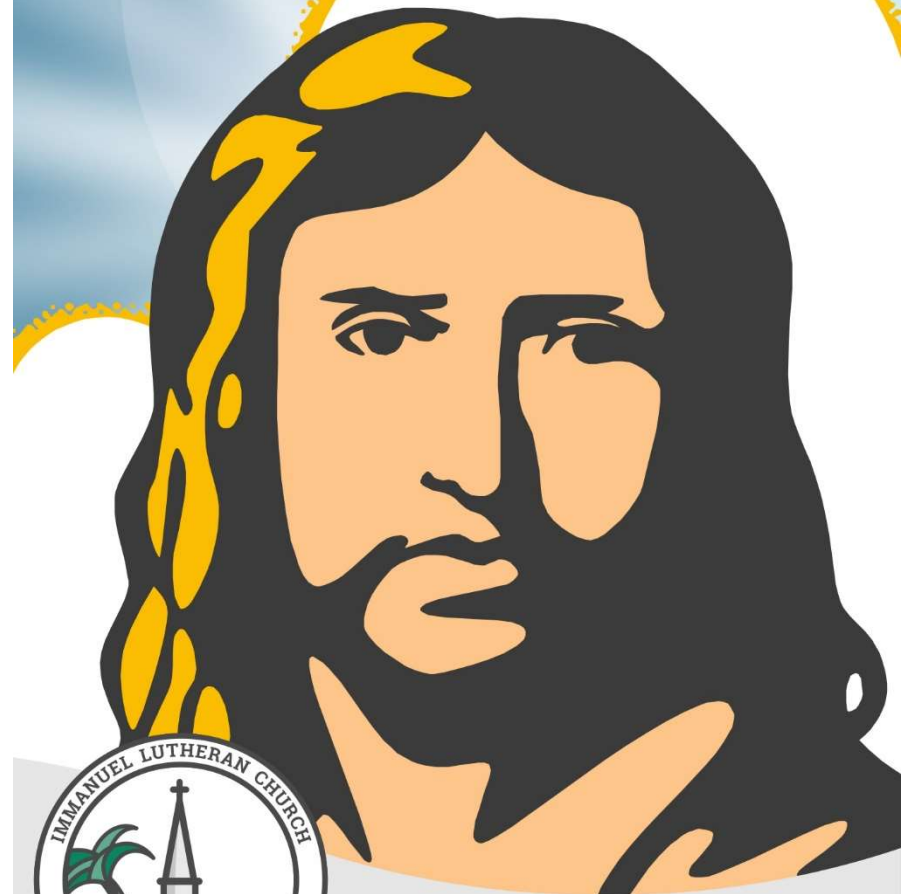
February 14, 2021

Transfiguration Sunday

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Mason Goodwin



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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 50:1-6

¹ The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. ³ Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest. ⁴ He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: ⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" ⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! Selah

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #135

"'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here"

1. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun, Shine with unborrowed light.
2. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand, Thy messengers of old.
3. Fulfiller of the past, Promise of things to be,
We hail Thy body glorified And our redemption see.
4. Before we taste of death, We see Thy kingdom come;
We fain would hold the vision bright And make this hill our home.
5. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here. Yet we may not remain;
But since Thou bid'st us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **♫ A - - - men.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **♫ Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C **♫ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

C **♫ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

HYMN: WS #720

"Oh, Wondrous Type! Oh, Vision Fair"

1. Oh, wondrous type! Oh, vision fair Of glory that the Church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows, Where brighter than the sun He glows!
2. With Moses and Elijah nigh Th'incarnate Lord holds converse high,
And from the cloud the Holy One Bears record to the only Son.
3. With shining face and bright array Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above Who trust in His atoning love.
4. 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.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C **♫ Amen, amen, a - men.**

HYMN: TLH #550:1,2,9

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

1. O splendor of God's glory bright, Who bringest forth the light from Light;
O Light of light, light's Fountain-spring; O Day, our days enlightening:
2. Come, very Sun of truth and love, Come in Thy radiance from above
And shed the Holy Spirit's ray On all we think or do today.
9. All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore.

✠ Announcements ✠

Lent Begins this Wednesday with our Ash Wednesday service. Lent is a 40-day period of time that has been observed for centuries by Christians

Looking Ahead...

✠ **Feb 17:** Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm

✠ **Feb. 21:** Masks-On Service 9 am

as a time to prepare for the Savior's death and resurrection. Please join us in making the same preparations each of the next six Wednesdays during our special Lenten services as we consider the theme: "Singing with Exiles."

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: WS #719:1,3-4 "Jesus on the Mountain Peak"

1. Jesus on the mountain peak Stands alone in glory blazing; Let us, if we dare to speak, Join the saints and angels praising. Alleluia!
3. Swift the cloud of glory came: God proclaiming in its thunder Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Alleluia!
4. This is God's beloved Son! Law and prophets sing before Him, First and last and only One. All creation shall adore Him! Alleluia!

SERMON – Mark 9:2-9 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶ For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸ And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The View from the Mount of Transfiguration

- Will. . .*
- I. Leave you speechless
 - II. Give you perspective
 - III. Show you where you are going

G O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

G ♪ A - - - men.

INTROIT

Ps. 99:1-5; 9

P Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!

G The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

P The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

G Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

P The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

G Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men." The piano accompaniment continues with the same two-staff structure.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Ps. 45:2a

P Alleluia. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

C ♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

P Let us pray. O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪ A - - - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 2 Kings 2:1-12a Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please 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. ³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please 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. ⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Please 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. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰ And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹ And 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. ¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

EPISTLE READING – 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. ¹ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.