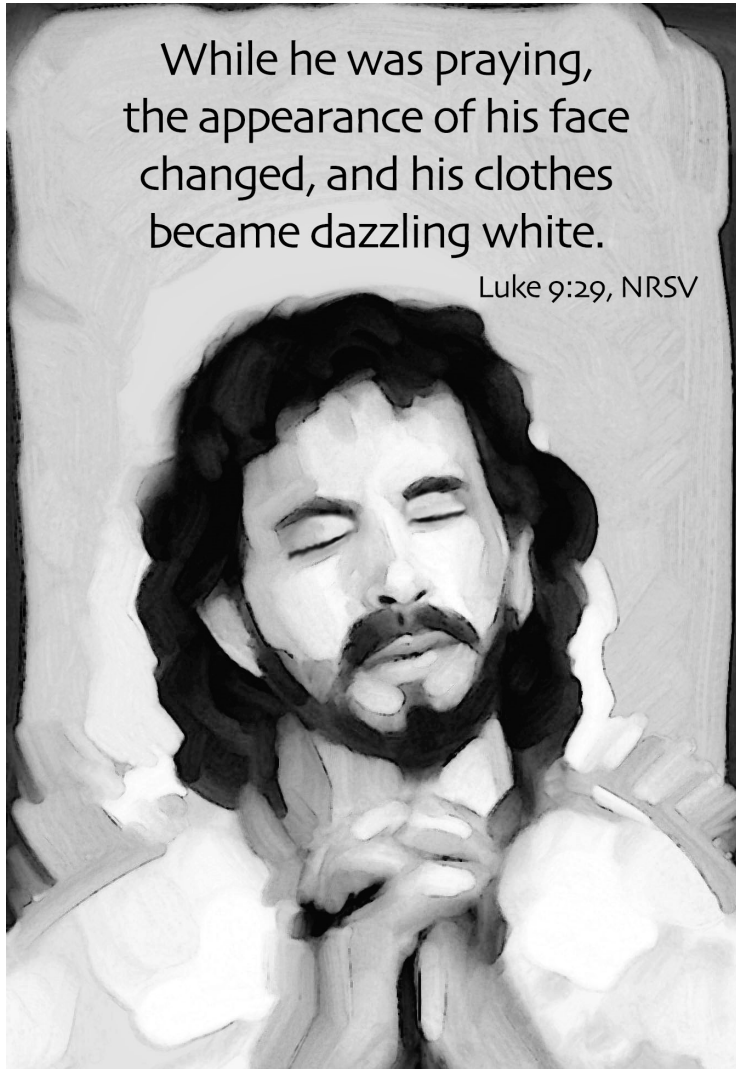


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY!

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

March 3, 2019

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child is restless, you can use the Family Room to calm your child. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the Worship Center. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers or greeters can help you find the restrooms, family room or answer your other questions.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

As the season of Epiphany comes to a close, Jesus reveals himself to us once more; today he gives a sneak peek of the heavenly glory that awaits us all. But, in doing so, he also reminds us of what his mission is: to fulfill his Father's plan of salvation. He is the Chosen One! He is your glorious Savior!

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is white, which reminds us of the perfect glory of Christ we will all share one day in heaven.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

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Hymns marked CW can be found in the red hymnals in the pew racks, Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.

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¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

HYMN

How Good, Lord, to Be Here | CW 95

Please stand.

INVOCATION

Minister (M): In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD

sung to the tune in CW 391

♪ All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.

You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen. ♪



The Word

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray...Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 34:29-35

Moses' face is made radiant when he meets with the Lord.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 2 | CW p.65

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

God's people reflect the glory of the Lord.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

CW p. 40

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36

Behold the glory of the Lord.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Down from the Mount of Glory | CW 97

SERMON - BEHOLD JESUS' GLORY ON THE MOUNTAINTOP

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all
that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the
Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of
one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

THANK OFFERING

St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register which will be passed out during the offering. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesus Take Us to the Mountain

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Keep us faithful to you at all times. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ whenever he is present in Word and Sacrament.
- C: Throughout all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus and on him alone. Keep us safe and protect us from all the tricks of the devil.**
- M: We pray that you would guide your church to have compassion on those stumbling in the darkness and help us show Christ to all who have no faith.
- C: Give us courage to be unashamed of the light you have given us, and to carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do.**

- M: Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear.
- C: **Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and give them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on.**
- M: We pray that Christ would reveal his gracious presence to all who suffer.
- C: **We pray particularly for those among us and in our families and circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone else whose needs we hold in our hearts.**
- M: Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without Christ.
- C: **As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's great sacrifice on the cross and give us hearts full of faith in him.**

Special Prayers and Intercession

- M: Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and to all those for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

The Sacrament

PREFACE

- M: The Lord be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- M: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: **It is good and right so to do.**



M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*

sung to the tune in CW 336

♪ O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry. ♪

♪ Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord! ♪

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD - *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated and await the direction of the ushers.

The communicant members of our congregation will be invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are present in the sacrament, and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor prior to communing. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we've had an opportunity to explain and prove them from Scripture. The pastor would be happy to explore our convictions with you, on the basis of God's Word, so that you might commune with us in the future!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

If you are in need of gluten free wafers or grape juice, please ask for directions from an usher.

COMMUNION HYMN

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord | CW 135

Please stand.

SONG OF SIMEON - *Nunc Dimittis*

sung to the tune in CW 538

♪ O Lord, now let your servant Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised Incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory Of those in Israel! ♪

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, the Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means "praise the Lord."

Now, for a time, we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

ALLELUIA, SONG OF TRIUMPH

sung to the tune in CW 361

♪ Alleluia, song of triumph, sound the joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;
Saints adorned in robes of glory join the great angelic cry.

Alleluia we are singing, voicing hymns in pure accord,
With Christ's holy Church united, justified, redeemed, restored,
And with all his faithful people raise our songs to praise the Lord.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forego.
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.

May our hymns be filled with longing—hear us, Holy Trinity—
As we look to your blest Easter, here, and then eternally,
When we shall once more be singing alleluia joyfully! ♪



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. The word used for Jesus' "departure" in Luke 9:31 is *exodus* in Greek. Think about how that word is used in the Old Testament. What connections are there between Jesus' exodus or departure and the exodus of the Old Testament?
2. Why were Moses and Elijah the ones to join Jesus on the mountaintop? Why not David or Solomon or Noah? You might want to check the People's Bible or a study Bible for the answer.
3. What are some experiences that you personally might want to, like Peter, "build shelters for" so that they last longer? Why are we not able to do that?
4. Look again at the second reading from 2 Corinthians 3. What two things is Paul really comparing and contrasting in these verses?

YOUTH WORSHIP QUESTIONS

(Intended for grade school-age, but useful for anyone.)

1. What is one thing you want to remember about today's children's message?
2. What did you learn about Jesus in the sermon?
3. After what you heard in church today, what is one thing you can pray for?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

I'm Just A Sheep – Led by Principal John Melso
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

LENT BEGINS

March 6 | 3:35 & 6:30 p.m.

Join us for our Midweek Lenten Services beginning this Wednesday. The services are held at 3:35 & 6:30 p.m. You will benefit from this extra opportunity to focus on Jesus' saving work on your behalf.

LENTEN SUPPERS

Wednesdays 4:30-6:00 p.m.

To spread out the work involved in our fellowship suppers, we ask that all members pitch in to help. We've divide the congregation into three teams with each team serving twice during Lent. There is set-up, serving, and clean-up work to be done before, during, and after the meal, so help as it fits your schedule. If your last name begins with the letters A-J, please help on March 6 & March 27. If your last name begins with the letters K-O, please help on March 13 & April 3. If your last name begins with the letters P-Z, please help on March 20 & April 10. We also ask that you bring bars or another dessert to share. We hope you enjoy this time of fellowship and service.

OPEN FORUMS ON THE CALL

March 17 | 9:15 & 11:45 a.m.

As we continue to issue calls for an associate pastor, it seems wise to revisit some key aspects connected to this process. Therefore, on March 17, we will hold open forums to discuss 1) the doctrine of the call and 2) what we are looking for in an associate pastor. We will have an open forum following each service at approximately 9:15 and 11:45. Be ready to share your comments and questions. However, please note that these forums are not meant to put a halt to the calling process entirely. There is no question as to whether or not we need to continue issuing calls--but if we can provide clearer answers as to what we are looking for and why we are moving forward, we will all benefit greatly from it.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

March 9 | 10:00 a.m.

If you have a child entering kindergarten next year, please plan to attend the Kindergarten Roundup on Saturday, March 9. You will meet the teacher and other parents, see the classroom, and find out more about kindergarten at St. Paul's.

MLC CHOIR IN WAUSAU

March 22

The Choir from Martin Luther College of New Ulm, MN is on tour this March. On March 22, they will have two performances in the Wausau area. At 12:45 p.m. they will be at Northland Lutheran High School. That evening at 7:00 p.m., they will be at St. Peter Lutheran Church – their Schofield campus. You are welcome to attend either performance.

OPERA FOR THE YOUNG

March 5 | 9:30 a.m.

Come see the students of our school sing along-side professional Opera for the Young performers in the production, *Super Storm*. The children will appear onstage in chorus and cameo roles. There will be plenty of seating for all who want to attend, so join us for an entertaining morning.

LENT & EASTER CONCERT AT NLHS

March 10 | 3:00 p.m.

Some of our grade school students will perform in the concert at Northland Lutheran High School. The concert features the high school's band and choir. Bring your music-loving friends. Refreshment will be served after the concert.

HYGIENE DRIVE ENDS NEXT SUNDAY

Feb. 17-Mar. 10

The community hygiene drive ends next Sunday. Please bring in your donations by then. A list of items needed can be found on the donation bin.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last week's attendance: 94 (because of the blizzard)
Year-to-date average attendance: 238

From July 1, 2018 to February 22, 2019

Actual gifts to ministry: \$ 641,864

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 682,897

Mortgage Balance \$ 1,558,159

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 3 Together We Shine Event at NLHS
- Mar. 4-8 St. Paul's Serving at the Food Pantry
- Mar. 6 Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 17 Open Forum on the Call

Three Words



of

TRUTH

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays

March 6 – April 10

3:35 & 6:30 PM

Supper served 4:30-6:00 PM

CALENDAR

March 3-10

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the Dining Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
	2:00 PM	Lutheran Pioneers in the Dining Room
MONDAY	8:15 AM	Board of Elders in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Board of Properties in the Resource Center
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	3:35 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
	4:30 PM	Lenten Supper in the cafeteria (Helpers A-J)
	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:30 PM	Catechism Class (grades 6-8) in the Bible Study Room
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
	8:00 PM	Contemporary Choir Practice in the balcony
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Men's Devotionals Basketball in the gym
SATURDAY	10:00 AM	Kindergarten Roundup
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the Dining Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
	3:00 PM	Lent & Easter Concert at NLHS





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