

#### PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

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The Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 11, 2024

The Mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ through worship and ministering to all God's people equipping them for service to God and to each other.

#### **CREATIVE WORSHIP**

# As We Gather: Calling A Faithful Pastor

O Gracious Father, You led Your holy apostles to ordain ministers for the proclamation of Your Word and the Faithful administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to Your will for the blessing of Your Church in this place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**PRELUDE** Organist

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

Peace Handbell Choir

"Great Is the Lord" - Smith/Smith/Bettcher

#### **OPENING HYMN**

"O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair" LSB 413

- O wondrous type! O vision fair Of glory that the Church may share, Which Christ upon the mountain shows, Where brighter than the sun He glows!
- With Moses and Elijah nigh The incarnate Lord holds converse high; And from the cloud the Holy One Bears record to the only Son.

- With shining face and bright array Christ deigns to manifest today What glory shall be theirs above Who joy in God with perfect love.
- 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.
- $\triangle$  5 O Father, with the eternal Son And Holy Spirit ever one, We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace To see Thy glory face to face.

  Text: Sarum Breviary, 1495, Salisbury; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Text: Public domain

#### **INVOCATION**

- In the name of the Father and of the  $\pm$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Psalm 99:4. 9

- The King in His might loves justice.
- C You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain;
- C for the LORD our God is holy!

Silence for reflection.

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 in thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to Your

- infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C O most merciful God, who has given Your onlybegotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- P Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

**PSALM** 50:1-6

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

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.

#### **KYRIE**

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- Let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

## **COLLECT**

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; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# C Amen.

# **OLD TESTAMENT** 2 Kings 2:1–12; Exodus 34:29–35

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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."

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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."

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

<sup>29</sup>When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

<sup>34</sup>Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, <sup>35</sup>the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** 2 Corinthians 3:12–18; 4:1–6

<sup>12</sup>Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup>But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>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.

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But 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. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only 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 what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 9:2–9

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>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, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>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." <sup>6</sup>For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." 8And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

<sup>9</sup>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.

- This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

# MESSAGE HYMN "'Tis Good, Lord, To Be Here" LSB 414

- 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy glory fills the night; Thy face and garments, like the sun, Shine with unborrowed light.
- 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beauty to behold Where Moses and Elijah stand, Thy messengers of old.
- 3 Fulfiller of the past And hope 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 long to 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 bidst us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.
  Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.
  Text: Public domain

#### **MESSAGE**

"The God of Lent" St. Mark 9:2-9

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

#### **OFFERTORY**

"God Loved the World So That He Gave" LSB 571 (v. 6)

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

#### LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

#### HYMN

"Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory" LSB 416 (Tune: LSB 803)

- Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, Heaven's voice, the dazzling light; Moses and Elijah vanish; Christ alone commands the height! Peter, James, and John fall silent, Turning from the summit's rise Downward toward the shadowed valley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.
- 2 Glimpsed and gone the revelation, They shall gain and keep its truth, Not by building on the mountain Any shrine or sacred booth, But by following the Savior Through the valley to the cross And by testing faith's resilience Through betrayal, pain, and loss.
- 3 Lord, transfigure our perception
  With the purest light that shines,
  And recast our life's intentions
  To the shape of Your designs,
  Till we seek no other glory
  Than what lies past Calv'ry's hill
  And our living and our dying
  And our rising by Your will.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1945 Text: © 1994 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000368

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give + you peace.

C Amen.

# **CLOSING HYMN** "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" LSB 417

- 1 Alleluia, song of gladness, Voice of joy that cannot die; Alleluia is the anthem Ever raised by choirs on high; In the house of God abiding Thus they sing eternally.
- 2 Alleluia, thou resoundest, True Jerusalem and free: Alleluia, joyful mother, All thy children sing with thee, But by Babylon's sad waters Mourning exiles now are we.
- Alleluia cannot always Be our song while here below; Alleluia, our transgressions Make us for a while forgo; For the solemn time is coming When our tears for sin must flow.

4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, blessèd Trinity, At the last to keep Thine Easter With Thy faithful saints on high; There to Thee forever singing Alleluia joyfully.
Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE Organist**