

# THE PARISH CONNECTION



**Tri-County Lutheran Parish  
Issued on February 10, 2021**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

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## From Vicar Care

Grace and peace to you all in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I cannot believe that Lent is just around the corner. February 17 is the beginning of this season of repentance, solemnity, fasting, and almsgiving. Just as Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness, so too do we have this time to turn from our sins and live for God alone.

Fittingly, Confirmation Class this week focused on the temptation of Jesus. Pastor Sam showed a video depicting this biblical story. Just as the Gospel of Luke says: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness..." In the video, an animated Jesus happily receives the Holy Spirit as a (very plump!) dove. Then that same dove guides him out to the desert. It made me laugh; I have never pictured Jesus literally following a bird out into the wilderness!

Though I am sure Jesus was not physically guided by a dove to the desert, it is true that he was led in some way by the Holy Spirit to his temptations. It's surprising to think about--after all, we pray in the Lord's Prayer to "lead us *not* into temptation." But isn't that exactly what the Holy Spirit did?

When we are our best selves, I don't think any of us wants to be led into temptation, into a situation where we must resist something that entices us away from love of God and care for neighbor. Yet so often we barely need to leave our house to be tempted! As one ancient Christian woman Mother Matrona put it, "we carry ourselves wherever we go, and cannot escape temptation by mere flight."

As we draw nearer to Lent and consider what spiritual practices we will undertake during this holy season, perhaps we can embrace temptation. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is calling us out into the wilderness to be tempted, to learn what we are addicted to and what we can live without, to be guided into loving our neighbors more fully, to discover hard truths about ourselves.

It is no easy task to face temptation. Jesus knew that all too well after 40 days in the desert. We know that as sinful and redeemed children of God. So perhaps your prayer this Lent can be taken from Mother Sarah:

“Do not pray to have no challenges but pray rather for the strength to endure it all.”

I pray you have the strength to endure whatever temptations come your way this week and this Lent. I pray that you find strength in unexpected and holy ways. And I pray that through all our temptations, we may catch a glimpse of the Holy Spirit guiding us through them all.

In Christ's Peace,  
Vicar Care  
312-538-3044

### ***A Poem by Donna McDonald***

*Another year, what did we miss?  
More anxiety, it isn't bliss!  
How do we recover from angst and fear?  
When it's nothing more than another year.  
Let's pull together and see it through,  
Be cheerful and hopeful to start anew!  
Treat our challenge as a near to its end,  
Restore our faith with a joyous AMEN!  
Help each other with a loving heart,  
Don't let this destroy us and pull us apart.  
Love one another without any blame,  
Remember the Lord and cast no shame!  
With a light heart and renewed hope,  
Put it in God's hand and he will cope.  
So let's join together as ONE,  
And a Happy New Year will finally COME!!*

## **News and Information**

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam ([\*\*whiteginger20@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)) or Pastor Beth ([\*\*chellman4557@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:chellman4557@gmail.com)) should you have a pastoral care concern. If you would like to reach both pastors at the same time, please email [clergy@tclparish.org](mailto:clergy@tclparish.org).

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
- If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery ([\*\*harryavery@yahoo.com\*\*](mailto:harryavery@yahoo.com)).
- If you have a Human Resources concern, contact Phyllis Keeler at [poetphyl@gmail.com](mailto:poetphyl@gmail.com) or Jeannette Wilber at [tam20kfw@tclparish.org](mailto:tam20kfw@tclparish.org).

### **Worship Schedule for the week of February 10-February 14 (all on Zoom)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

#### **To Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone:**

Meeting ID: 7700997419

Dial by your location

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 7700997419

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

**February 10:** Book Study at 6 pm.

[\*\*https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419\*\*](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419)

**February 14:** Sunday Worship – Transfiguration Sunday, 10 a.m.  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>**

**This year on Ash Wednesday,** you are invited to worship with us via a pre-recorded service that will be available on YouTube (the link will be posted in the Parish Connection as well as the Facebook pages very soon!). In addition. Pastor Beth. Pastor Sam. and Vicar Care will be offering Imposition of Ashes using the following schedule:

**Vicar Care**

Zion, Athens (in front of church) 9-11am

Oak Hill (front of church in view of Post Office) 3-5pm

**Pastor Beth**

Hudson (7th Street Park) 11:30am-1pm

St. Stephen's (church parking lot) 2-3pm

Castleton (corner in front of parsonage) 4-6pm

**Pastor Sam**

Chatham (Village Gazebo) 10-12noon

St. Luke's (in front of church) 4:30-6:30pm

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Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTm\\_PrA-l1qlv8PJ-g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTm_PrA-l1qlv8PJ-g)**

## Understanding Facebook Groups and Pages

Tri-County Lutheran Parish has both a Facebook group and a Facebook page. Ever wondered why and what the difference is?

First, our group is a closed group. This means that you must be an approved member of the group to see what is in the group. The closed status lets us post things that are not meant for widespread viewing such as prayer concerns, diagnoses and other personal things. We also cannot share what is posted on the group allowing for more privacy.

The page is public. This means anyone can see what is there and members can share what is posted on the page. Please be sure that you do not put personal information on the page.

Why have both? Because we want to have a place where the whole parish is able to share information in a private manner (group) and a place where we can access shareable information (page). An example of what is on the group is when we posted gratitude prompts in November. Members shared some personal information with one another. An example of what is on the page is our worship events. We want you to share these! When you share the worship event, a copy of the event is placed on your page so your friends can see it. The easiest evangelism there is!

It is important that you do “like” all posts. We want the public to see our page. The more “likes” we have, the more prominent it is in the Facebook searches. Please take a second and click the like button to help the parish grow a social media presence. Share the worship events and other posts from the page so others may worship with us.

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**The TCLP Outreach Team** will meet Saturday, 2/20 at 10AM via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87898930170>) If you would like to join and you do not have Zoom capabilities, you can call Pr. Beth or Pr. Sam and we will do what we can to facilitate!

**The Parish Prayer Group** is meeting the first and third Tuesdays at 4PM via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Sam.

Also – Pastor Sam has been hearing some thoughts around to start **an all-parish Sunday School** (likely on Zoom, due to distance/Covid). To make this happen **we need volunteers to teach and lead**. Do you have a gift for teaching and like to work with kids? Please let Pastor Sam know so we can try to get something started!

If you need food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God's hands and feet for each other!

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**Opportunity to Help!!!** Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

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**Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)**

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: [mmcps@tciparish.org](mailto:mmcps@tciparish.org), which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp [annie2919@gmail.com](mailto:annie2919@gmail.com) (C) 518-610-1335

Patty Bervy [pbervy@yahoo.com](mailto:pbervy@yahoo.com) (C) 518-598-7609

Karen Schubert [kara3215@juno.com](mailto:kara3215@juno.com) (H) 518-731-6751

Duane Keeler [oneservantofgod@gmail.com](mailto:oneservantofgod@gmail.com) (C) 518-610-0164

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## **A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith**

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to the new email: **[parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org)**. Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however by Monday, noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can, however, always leave a voice mail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to: **[parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org)**

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note as to when I will be back. Peace, Sharon

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### **Book Study**

Book study continues! We are reading and discussing "Rising out of Hatred" by Eli Saslow. We meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please use the following Zoom ID: 7700997419

### **Bible Study**

The Beatitudes have much to say about our lives as disciples of Christ. Beginning in Lent we will explore the Beatitudes in depth. I will be using the book "Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship" to guide us. While it isn't necessary to have the book, some of you may like it to follow along. Please let me know if you would like me to order one for you. They are also available on Amazon, but at a higher price than direct from the publisher in a bulk order.

The Bible Study will be Monday evenings at 7pm on Zoom (link will be published closer to the start date). Hope you can join us!



**2021 TCLP Board – will be upgraded soon.**

**If you have additions, deletions, changes, etc. for the Parish Connection, bulletins, etc., please either call the Parish office at 518- 758-6526 or email: [parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org).**

**Thank you!**

**Congregation Announcements**

**For all congregations: We will be having worship on Zoom only.**

**Time of worship is 10 a.m.**

**Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>**

**EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS**

**Contact -- TBA**

**Zoom worship 10 a.m.**

**Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82447215532>**

**Emanuel, Stuyvesant Falls 2021 Calendars have arrived. To get yours, speak to Dick Frick!**

**Christ in Our Home devotional booklets are here! Speak to Dick Frick if you would like a copy!**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Linda Frick	Term Expires 2022	Co-Treasurer
Olivia Dumont	Term Expires 2022	
Leslie Dumont	Term Expires 2023	
Jennifer Dunn	Term Expires 2024	
Shirley McThenia	Term Expires 2024	
Pr. Sam	Ex Officio member	
Pr. Beth	Ex Officio member	
Chuck Albertson*	Secretary	
Dick Frick*	Co-Treasurer	

**\* Non-elected council member**

**PARISH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:**

Chair: Harry Avery (Chair)  
Primary: Harry Avery  
Alternate: Chuck Albertson

**Committees**

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)**

Teresa Avery  
Karen Albertson  
Phyllis Keeler

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)**

Phyllis Keeler

**SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM (Parish Team)**

Karen Albertson

**HUMAN RESOURCES (Parish Committee)**

Chair: Phyllis Keeler

**MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Parish Committee)**

Will be from St. Luke's this year.

**ST. LUKE'S, VALATIE**

Contact -- TBA

***Zoom worship 10 a.m.***

**COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021**

Tim McGlauflin  
Mike Schunk  
Janis McGlauflin  
Dana Berntson  
Ted Fiebke  
Gail Paone  
Karen McIntyre  
Sharon Smith

Ken Schomaker (treasurer) – not on Council

Sharon Campbell is new financial secretary (not on council)

## **Council Officers -- TBA**

TCLP Board Reps -- TBA

### **St. Luke's Offering Envelopes**

***They're here – the 2021 offering envelopes! Stop in and get yours today!***

### **St. Luke's 2021 Calendars**

***They're here, too!! Stop in and get yours when you pick up your offering envelopes!***

## **EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S**

**Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald [rfatbellspond@yahoo.com](mailto:rfatbellspond@yahoo.com)**

***Zoom worship 10 a.m.***

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Pat Brundage	President
Dick Fitzgerald	<u>Treasurer</u> (not a Council Member)
Debra Garrison	Secretary
Linda Baker	
Kirk Dixon	Sexton

**TCLP Board Reps -- Pending**

# **ZION, ATHENS**

Contact -- Gethen Proper [gethen7@gmail.com](mailto:gethen7@gmail.com)

## **Zoom worship 10 a.m.**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

William Darling	President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer	Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary,	Treasurer	845-797-6084
<a href="#"><u>Gethen Proper</u></a>	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
<a href="#"><u>Carol Serazio</u></a>		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
<a href="#"><u>John Wais</u></a>		518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg		518-945-1184

**TCLP Board Reps:** Tim Mercer, Bob O'Leary

**The many outreach projects of Zion** are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.

Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.

Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.

**Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm**

## **ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL**

Contact – Jackie Menagh [jamspirit@hardsdisk.net](mailto:jamspirit@hardsdisk.net) 518-256 2496 (cell)

### **Zoom worship 10 a.m.**

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Jackie Menagh	President	518-634-2026 home -- leave a message
(TBA)	Treasurer	
Sally Lord	Secretary	

#### **TCLP Board Reps -- Pending**

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever.

## **CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM**

Contact – Jeanette Wilber [tam20kfw@aol.com](mailto:tam20kfw@aol.com)

### **Zoom worship 10 a.m.**

*Christ Our Emmanuel Annual meeting will be  
Saturday, Feb.13, in person, at 2:30 p.m.*

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS -- Pending**

#### **TCLP Board Reps -- Pending**

*Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal! Please visit our website at [www.chathamLutheran.org](http://www.chathamLutheran.org) to get started!*

## **ST. STEPHENS, E. SCHODACK**

Contact – Alice Senrick

[Asenrick29@gmail.com](mailto:Asenrick29@gmail.com)

518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504

***Zoom worship 10 a.m.***

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Charles Senrick,  
Deb Holtz,  
Cathy Teeter,  
Brian Schell,  
Charles Mayrer,  
Diane Middleton

**TCLP Board Reps -- Pending**

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

### **TRINITY, CASTLETON**

Contact –TBA

***Zoom worship 10 a.m.***

### **Council Members**

Anne Philipp	President
Eric <u>Knodler</u>	Vice President
Elaine Dickson	Treasurer (not on Council)
Rik Cosgrave	Financial Secretary (not on Council)

**TCLP Board Reps**

Anne Philipp, Nichole Gardner

**The Castleton Girl Scouts are still collecting bottles and cans** and will continue to collect them until July of 2022. They can reach out to Nicole Gardner with questions or to make arrangements for pick up. She can be reached at 518-336-4077 (home) 518-312-8603 (text) or via email [scullynik@yahoo.com](mailto:scullynik@yahoo.com).

**Financial Secretary Needed** Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. if interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

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**What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at [parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org)**

**Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: [parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org) and she can help direct you to the right person!

**CONTACT US:**

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (*Parish*) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: [whiteginger20@gmail.com](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)

Pastor Beth George (*Parish*) Phone – 717-364-4557

Email: [chellman4557@gmail.com](mailto:chellman4557@gmail.com)

Pastor Dan Hahn, (*Intern Supervisor*) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail --[pastordanhahn@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanhahn@gmail.com)

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: [Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu)

TCLP Website: <https://www.tclparish.org>

CHATHAM WEBSITE: <https://www.chathamlutheran.org>

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.slelc.com>

## **Devotions and Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday- curated by Vicar Carolyn**

### **Prayer for Transfiguration by William Loader**

O God,

We open our eyes, and we see Jesus,  
the months of ministry transfigured to a beam of light,  
the light of the world,  
your light.

May your light shine upon us.

We open our eyes, and we see Moses and Elijah,  
your word restoring us, showing us the way,  
telling a story,  
your story, his story, our story.

May your word speak to us.

We open our eyes, and we see mist,  
the cloud of your presence  
which assures us of all we do not know  
and that we do not need to fear that.  
Teach us to trust.

We open our eyes, and we see Peter's constructions,  
his best plans, our best plans,  
our missing the point,  
our missing the way.  
Forgive our foolishness and sin.



We open our eyes, and we see Jesus,  
not casting us off,  
but leading us down, leading us out -  
to ministry, to people.  
Your love endures forever.

We open our ears, and we hear your voice,  
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him!'  
And we give you thanks.  
Amen!

"The Lord is more constant and far more extravagant than it seems to imply. Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?" --

**Marilynne Robinson**

"He must have lit up the sky that day on the mountain, what we call the transfiguration.

Jesus on the mountaintop unveiled a foretaste of heaven and glory. Light filled him so that the witnesses remarked on a hue of white that was whiter than any shade possible.

It was a sci-fi transportation to another dimension and while Peter and John were still reeling, Moses and Elijah showed up.

It broke the barrier between heaven and earth for Jesus was the one who could belong to both at the same time. A citizen of heaven, a citizen of earth."

**--Sara Lowe**

"To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good. because he is God, he is that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where. He

is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But: to move forward! And this bothers us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable."

**--Pope Francis**

### **Prayer for Transfiguration from manyvoices.org**

Radiant God, source of light,  
as you surrounded Jesus with your glory,  
so you come to us in penetrating brightness.

You catch us off guard and expose our weakness.  
We choose the limelight while you call us to explore the shadows  
and brighten the darkness.

We seek the spectacular while you bind up the broken in  
countless acts of mercy.

We seek to stay on the mountain or in a comfortable pew while  
you walk to the valleys of need.

Radiant God,  
fill us with light and courage to carry good news into all the  
corners of the world and to bring back the joy of your presence.  
Amen.

### **"We Never Expected the Transfiguration" by Loretta Pehanich**

This story is inspired by Luke 9:28–36, the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus casually invited three of us on a hike one warm, sunny day. I think Peter, James, and I are probably his closest buddies. Can you imagine what it felt like to be Jesus' best friend? The hike turned out to be a steep one, but we were happy to go along. Wherever Jesus was headed, we were willing to follow.

But we never expected the Transfiguration. When I got up that morning, I never expected to be seeing Moses that afternoon. I was stunned.

What did it feel like to see Elijah talking to Jesus about Jesus' exodus? Exodus? Why did he use that word? It would take me a long time to process that unexpected encounter.

And Jesus didn't want us chattering about this experience, so Peter, James, and I would whisper about it occasionally.

"Remember his clothes? They were so white it was blinding."

"What did it mean that God spoke from a cloud?"

"Did you feel the ground shake, or did I imagine that?"

"I wonder what they were talking about. I couldn't make out the words."

"I think there was some connection between that mountain and Mount Horeb."

After the Resurrection, we would tell the story of the Transfiguration again and again. And I am sure that others benefit from this retelling. That's how it is when you have an unexpected encounter with God; it must be remembered and shared for the benefit of others.

## Sermon by Pastor Beth

Have you ever really been on a roll? Like everything just keeps falling into place and you get so much accomplished, you don't want to stop. I think it is true that success breeds success. That feeling one gets when something is finished well leads to beginning another project.

As I read the opening of the gospel of Mark for a bit of context into our text for today, it was like Simon, Andrew, James and John were on a roll. They had been called by Jesus to be fishers for people. They followed Jesus from the seashore into the town of Capernaum and listened as Jesus taught them and everyone else around at the synagogue. They were amazed at how and what he taught them. This was someone who has real authority. This is someone quite different from the scribes they were used to. This is a man worth following.

And then the real eye opener happens. Jesus rebukes an unclean spirit to leave the body of a man. The spirit is forced to leave the man and everyone is beyond amazed. This man can command the spirits and they obey. Can you just imagine the word spreading about that one? News about Jesus, his healing of the man, his teaching, his authority, it all spreads faster than wildfire through the town.

What happens next? This is where our gospel reading picks up the story. They go home for lunch. Sort of anti-climactic isn't it? Not what I was expecting. I would be like, if this man can command a spirit to leave and it responds, then he can certainly heal my bum knees, your arthritis, your diabetes, your cancer. I would have been dragging people to meet this guy and be healed! But, they go home for lunch.

Things are not as they expect though. Simon's mother-in-law is sick with a fever. As the senior female in the house, she is the expected host. She would oversee the cooking, serving of guests, and everything home related. She is not able to do her duty and this is a matter of family honor for the hostess to

serve important guests. So, Jesus heals her. She gets up from her sick bed and begins to serve her guests.

Now before you think that those men should have just served themselves and let her rest, I can only say to stop thinking in 21st century terms. What Jesus did for Simon's mother-in-law and the man possessed by the spirit was to return them to their community. She was able to resume her position in her society as the head of the house. She was able to serve with dignity. The possessed man was able to return to life as a contributing member of his community. He could work again and have dinner with the family without fear. This is an amazing gift that Jesus gave them. When you are stuck in the hospital or rehab facility, what is the overall objective I hear the most often? I just want to go home. We want to return to our lives. We want to return to what is familiar and comfortable for us. Jesus' healing did that and more for these folks.

How did the community respond? People started showing up bringing their sick and possessed family with them in the hopes that this man would heal them. The text says the whole city was gathered around the door. Jesus cured many and the next day they left for another town.

So here is my big question when I read this. Why didn't Jesus heal everyone? What is the point of his healing people if he doesn't do it for everyone? I suppose we have to look at the big picture and not focus on individual lives because the point of the healings is not about the person being healed. It is about Jesus. It is all about Jesus the Messiah. Jesus the Messiah who came to earth to proclaim the message of God. The goal is to proclaim the message of God. Healing people was a way to get the attention of the crowds! Healing people helped get the people ready to hear what Jesus was proclaiming.

What was he proclaiming? The kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news. The kingdom of God has come near. It was standing right there before them! The good news, in bodily form, was proclaiming its own existence. God is not some far away, disinterested being that has no compassion for your suffering. God loves you. God loves you so much that the Son of God was willing to die on a cross for you to bring you healing like you've

never dreamed possible. Maybe not physical healing of an illness but healing of your soul.

The demon possessed man and Simon's mother-in-law and all the others healed that day had no idea what those miracles were pointing to. They knew they received a miraculous gift at the hands of Jesus and in that gift, the hearts of many were opened to understand their relationship with God in a whole new way. It would take a few years to bring all this about, but the kingdom of God was now a reality in the lives of believers.

Maybe Simon was absolutely right to take Jesus home for lunch. There in the house where they would break bread together in the ordinary meal, they would begin to be shaped into disciples. We gather to break bread together, sharing in the supper Jesus gives us. An ordinary meal of bread and wine, made extraordinary because of the life, death, and resurrection of the One who loves us more than life itself. And through that meal we are shaped into disciples.

**Tri-County Lutheran Parish**  
**February 14, 2021 Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
**Based on the ELW, Setting 1. Worship Leader: Vicar Carolyn**  
**Lawrence**  
**Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>**

**Announcements**

**Call to worship**

L: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

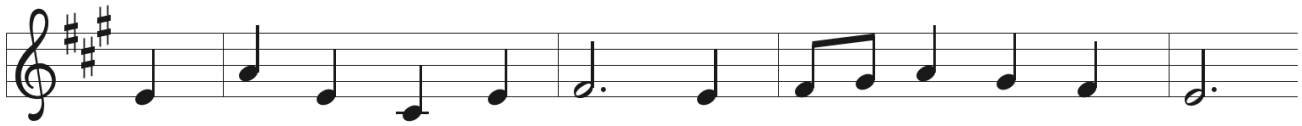
**C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **C: Amen.**

## Hymn

## Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

**C: 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**

## First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now 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>Elijah said to Elisha, "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>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out



to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, 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 company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "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 company of 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 mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 50:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken; calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence; with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>"Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause, for it is God who is judge.**

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In 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. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Gospel: Mark 9:2-9**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on

earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

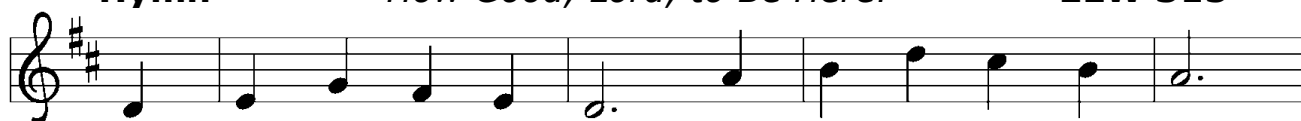
L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Hymn

### *How Good, Lord, to Be Here!*

**ELW 315**



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;  
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold  
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,  
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;  
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.  
 we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.  
 we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.  
 but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

## Apostles Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world. We pray for our Bishops, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, Pastors, Vicars, Seminarians, Church Musicians, Lay Leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world. We pray for military personnel, especially John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman; let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer this day, especially Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bob and Rita Laffety, Larry Gander, Mary Ellen Gander, Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Gloria LaCrosse, Bethany and family, Dolores Heilmann, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Karen Lasher, Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefine Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Burma Cavanagh, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Vickie Achenbach, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Robert Millius, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

We ask for travel mercies for Karen and Duane S. and for safety in the process of moving for Ruth M., let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage (*especially missionaries Cyril and Methodius*), that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living. We pray for the family and Friends of Darren Faulkner, Alice Holt, George Havlick, & Michelle Rigney, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick. let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud on our lips, or in the silence of our hearts. [Pause for prayers.] let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

L: I will give you all a moment to unmute yourselves... The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

### **Offering**

L: We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings sent electronically or by mail for the mission of the church including the care of those in need.

### **Offertory**

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

**C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

**C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

**C: unite them with the prayers we offer.**

L: Grace our table with your presence,

**C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

### **Dialogue**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

### **Preface**

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in 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 hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.**

### **Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

### **Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **\* Distribution of Communion**

#### **Post Communion Blessing**

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

### **\* Prayer After Communion**

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

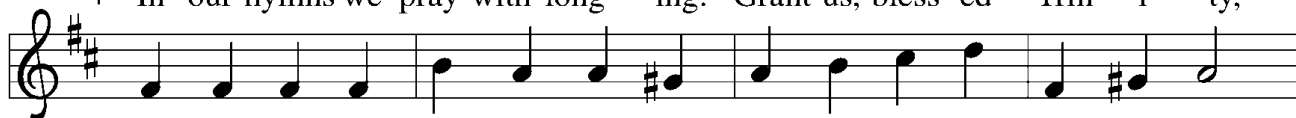
### **\* Blessing**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen.**





1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;  
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.  
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

### Dismissal

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;  
 hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;  
 strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor  
 all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy  
 Spirit.

L: Please unmute yourselves... And all God's people say:

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen and ALLELUIA!**

## PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, Vicar Carolyn Lawrence, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders.

For the families and friends of... Alice Holt, George Havlick, Darren Faulkner, Michelle Rigney.

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and especially for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing: Phyllis Keeler, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bob and Rita Laffety, Larry Gander, Mary Ellen Gander, Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Gloria LaCrosse, Bethany and family, Dolores Heilmann, Mary AnnPaul & family; Karen Lasher, Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefina Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Burma Cavanagh, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Vickie Achenbach, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Robert Millius, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Richard Fitzgerald, their caregivers, and our parish members who due to COVID19 are unable to attend In-Person worship.