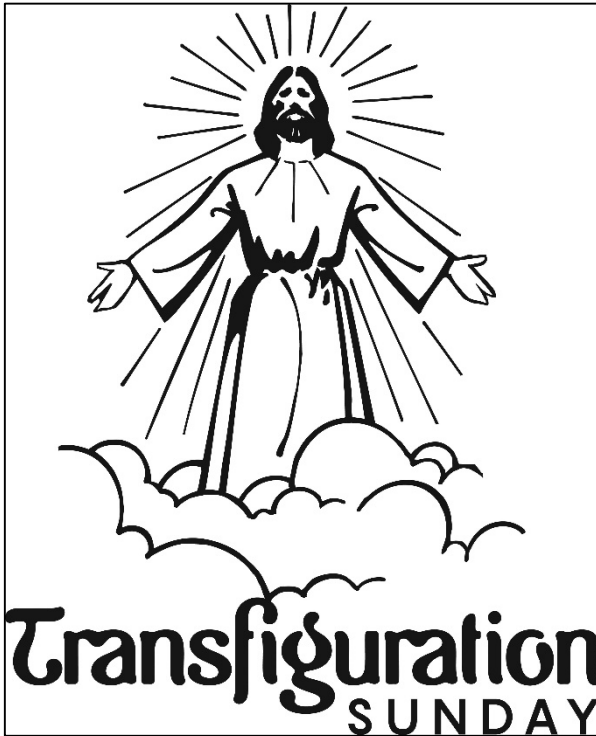


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Transfiguration of Our Lord

March 2, 2025



**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

*Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin,  
to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

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

*Kneel*

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

**P:** In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

and for his sake  
 God forgives us all our sins.  
 As a called and ordained minister  
 of the church of Christ, and by his authority,  
 I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
 in the name of the Father,  
 and of the † Son,  
 and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen

Stand

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

**GATHERING HYMN**

**How Good, Lord, to Be Here! ..... LBW 89**

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.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.  
 Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** 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.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



**C** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY****P**: Let us pray.

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

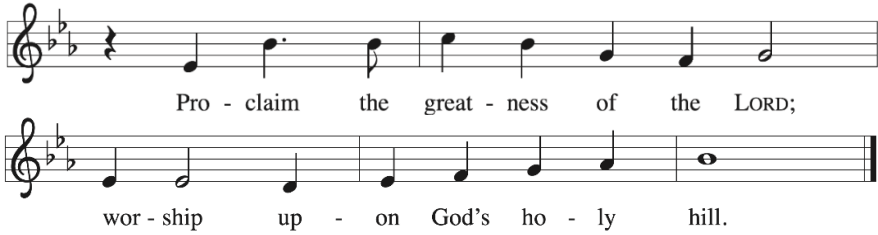
**C**: **Amen***Sit***WORD****FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35**

*Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.*

**A**: A Reading from Exodus:

<sup>29</sup> Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, 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 spoke with them. <sup>32</sup> Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup> When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup> but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup> the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

**A**: The word of the Lord.**C**: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 99***The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*


Pro - claim the great - ness of the LORD;  
wor - ship up - on God's ho - ly hill.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*


- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is king; let the | people tremble.  
The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let | the earth shake.
- <sup>2</sup> **The LORD, | great in Zion,  
is high a- | bove all peoples.**
- <sup>3</sup> Let them confess God's name, which is | great and awesome;  
God is the | Holy One.
- <sup>4</sup> **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have es- | tablished equity;  
you have executed justice and righteous- | ness in Jacob. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down be- | fore God's  
footstool;  
God is the | Holy One.
- <sup>6</sup> **Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who  
call upon your | name, O LORD,  
they called upon you, and you | answered them,**
- <sup>7</sup> you spoke to them out of the pil- | lar of cloud;  
they kept your testimonies and the decree | that you gave them.
- <sup>8</sup> **O LORD our God, you answered | them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for  
their | evil deeds.**
- <sup>9</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's | holy hill;  
for the LORD our God is the | Holy One. **R**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2**

*In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.*

**A:** A Reading from Second Corinthians:

<sup>12</sup> Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <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 all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

*The Gospel is carried into the midst of the people as a reminder that Christ is present among us. Please face the processional cross.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**CANTOR:** "This is my | son, my Chosen, lis- | ten to him!"

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias.

**GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36**

*The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

**SERMON**..... **Pastor Amme**



Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Oh, Wondrous Type! Oh, Vision Fair .....LBW 80**



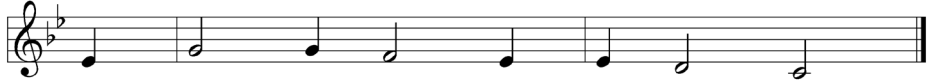
1 Oh, won - drous type! Oh, vi - sion fair  
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah high  
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray,  
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high  
 5 O Fa - ther, with the\_e - ter - nal Son



of glo - ry that the church may share,  
 the in - car - nate Lord holds con - verse high;  
 Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day  
 by this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y;  
 and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one,



which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,  
 and from the cloud, the Ho - ly One  
 what glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove  
 for which in joy - ful strains we raise  
 we pray you, bring us by your grace



where bright - er than the sun he glows!  
 bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.  
 who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.  
 to see your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English, 15th cent.

**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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic 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**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*After each petition:*

**P:** God of grace,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C:** **Amen**

**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you. **B:** Peace be with you.

*Sit*

***MEAL***

**OFFERING**

*The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

**ANTHEM**

***Let Your Light Shine*..... *Don Besig***

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless- ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray:

**C:** God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.  
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.

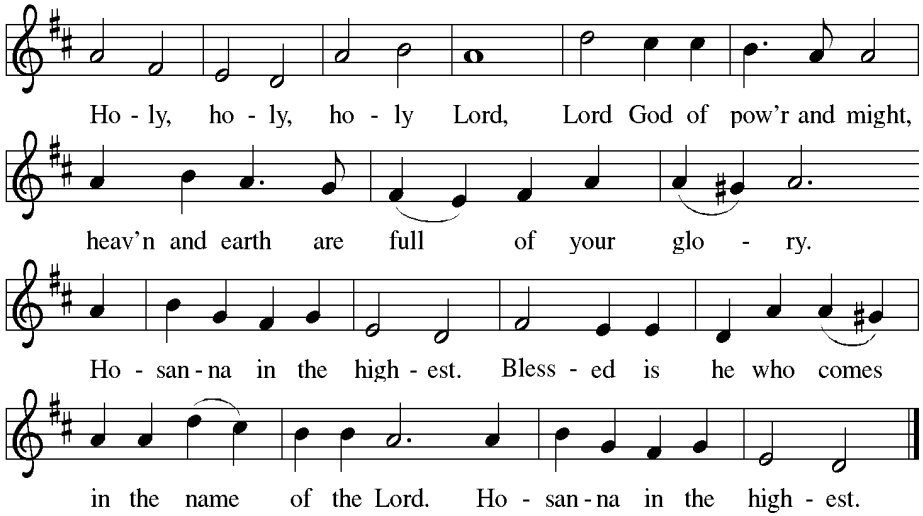
**Amen**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE**

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P**: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
 his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
 And unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
 Come and see.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

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 peace, grant us peace.

Sit

**COMMUNION**

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.**

*The communicant may say: Amen*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**Beautiful Savior..... LBW 518**

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

*Stand*

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

**C Amen**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray.

Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen**

***SENDING***

**BLESSING**

**P:** The Spirit of the triune God  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.

**C: Amen**





**INTRODUCTION TO THE SENDING HYMN** *Sung by the choir*

**“Farewell to Alleluia”** ..... **Farlee**

Alleluia, alleluia. Enclose and seal up the word, alleluia, alleluia.

Let it remain in the secret of your heart, alleluia, alleluia,  
until the appointed time. You shall say it with great joy when that day comes.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*The congregation turns to follow the processional cross.*

**SENDING HYMN**     **Alleluia, Song of Gladness**



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.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

**DISMISSAL**

**A**: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C**: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

## SERVICE ASSISTANTS

**Ushers:** Fred Harbaugh, Ann Marie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Susan Christ, Diana Rooker; **Lay Assistant:** David Bausinger; **Communion Assistant:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Jordan Morris; **Torchbearers:** Doriann Morris, Jonathan Hess; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser; **Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Georgette Copp, Ray Demarest; **Cantor:** Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

## IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Christopher G Solomon, and Naomi and Samuel Kreger and Carl, Annalie and Kathleen Solomon by their family.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of David L. Riley, Carol Riley and David L. Riley, Jr. by David and Emily Bausinger, Connie and Gary Hess and their families.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

**Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday,** March 5, with a service at 7:00 pm. Please join us on the following Wednesday nights for our Lenten Vespers at 6:30 pm with a brief bible study afterwards. We look forward to seeing you! **There will be no Bible Study on Ash Wednesday.**

**Copies of *Servant of the Lord*, a Lenten Devotional Booklet** are now available in the Narthex. Brought to you in partnership with the Lutheran Hour Ministries. In *Servant of the Lord*, we see Jesus as God's Son and our Redeemer. He has made the Heavenly Father known to us. Proclaiming the kingdom of God, Jesus served us—lovingly, patiently, compassionately—as He died for our sins and rose three days later in Easter victory.

**Lenten Self-Denial Calendars & Banks** that benefit Shepherd of the Streets are also in the Narthex, plus current copies of the devotional booklets *Christ in Our Home* and *The Upper Room* are available.

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING**  
**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**  
324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702  
(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

## **Chaos and Mystery**

Ghost-like prophets from generations past, a face suddenly transformed, dazzling clothes, frightening fog, and a mysterious voice: today's gospel text might sound like the beginning of a strange science fiction novel. Indeed, this passage has mystified theologians, biblical scholars, preachers, and followers of Jesus for centuries. What do we make of such an unusual tale?

Perhaps the chaos and mystery are part of the point: after all, who can fully describe an encounter with the Divine? How can we even begin to understand the glory of God? If this text leaves us speechless, we are in good company with God-seekers across the ages. Some experiences simply defy tidy explanations, and the transfiguration is one of them.

This story offers us glimpses of some of the most profound mysteries of our faith. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, the one sent and affirmed by God. Jesus is the glory of God revealed among us. In him, we find our past, present, and future all wrapped up into one. Even the most devout disciples might find themselves confounded by these revelations. Perhaps we are given these truths only in glimpses to spark our curiosity and wonder, and to let the gift of faith reveal their meaning.

This story also assures us that although Jesus shines with God's glory on the mountaintop, he is sent back into the day-to-day world to carry on the work of life-saving mercy, healing, and justice. Like Peter, James, and John, we might encounter God on the mountaintops of life and be tempted to set up camp there. But God is the one who leaves the mountain for the often-unglamorous work of serving others. We trust that here, too, God is with us—not just on the mountaintops but in the valleys and everywhere in between, transforming us for the work of discipleship here and now in the ordinariness of life.

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