



The Transfiguration of Jesus

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THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

(Life Sunday)
January 20, 2024

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
The Transfiguration of our Lord
January 20, 2024

Wenona, Illinois
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WELCOME to all who are worshiping with us. If you are a guest, please sign the guest book, including your home address and congregation. We welcome to our altar all those who share our confession of faith within the fellowship of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



THE OPENING HYMN:	"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"	Hymn # 816
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THE INVOCATION		pg. 203
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THE INTROIT	(chanted responsively by whole verse)	Psalm 84
THE KYRIE		pg. 204
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THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY		pg. 205
THE THEME HYMN:	"'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here"	Hymn # 414
THE OLD TESTAMENT READING		
THE EPISTLE		
THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE		pg. 205
THE HOLY GOSPEL		
THE NICENE CREED		pg. 206-207
HYMN OF THE DAY:	"Jesus on the Mountain Peak"	Hymn # 415
THE SERMON:	(see sermon insert)	
THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH		
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THE CLOSING HYMN:	"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"	Hymn # 633



The offering plate is on the table in the narthex. Thank you for your continued contributions.

COLLECT OF THE DAY - 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.

IN OUR PRAYERS, we remember Fran Morris (recovering from surgery); The family and friends of Larry King, brother to Fran Morris, who died in Christ; Starr Barke, Kristin Bosteels, Vic Bosteels, Dwayne Brewer, Sr., Robert Jones, Marion McKnight, Amy Schwanke, Neil Schwanke, Bill Simmons, Loretta Stoeger, Sally Thomas, Sally Tidmarsh, Andy Volker, Cindy Volker, Mildred Ward, and Ken Welch, all of whom are dealing with health problems. We ask God to provide for the pastoral and financial needs of this congregation.

THIS WEEK AT ZION AND ST. PAUL'S:

TODAY (SATURDAY)	Zion Service with Holy Communion	5:00PM
SUNDAY	St. Paul's Service with Holy Communion	8:30AM
	St. Paul's Sunday School and Bible class	9:45AM
MONDAY	Zion Bible class	9:00AM
SATURDAY	Zion Service with Holy Communion	5:00PM
SUNDAY	St. Paul's Service with Holy Communion	8:30AM
	St. Paul's Sunday School and Bible class	9:45AM

ATTENDANCE last week: n/a (snowed out)
(Zion needs about \$1,157 in weekly offerings to cover expenses)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Life Sunday: Every year on the Sunday closest to January 21st the Church celebrates Life Sunday because Jesus cares about each and every single human life—no matter how small, how old, how young, or how challenged. He gave His life on the cross to redeem every one of us that we might have life to its fullness. There have been over 63 million abortions in our country since January 21st, 1973, when the Supreme Court legalized it in the decision of *Roe v. Wade*. All those mothers and fathers need Jesus. All mothers and fathers considering abortion today need to know Jesus.

Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned in 2022, the fight over abortion shifted largely to the state level. Illinois is one of the worst states on abortion. Last year we saw a 69% increase in abortions in IL. We celebrate Life Sunday to teach all of us that life is sacred and valuable at every age.

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is Wednesday, February 14. Worship service that day will be at Zion at 12:00PM. All of the Lent midweek services will be at noon also. Please mark your calendars.

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹[In those days:] 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. ³⁰Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. ³²Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. ³³And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

³⁴Whenever 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, ³⁵the 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.

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶[Dearly Beloved:] We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on

the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 17:1-9

¹[At that time:] Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

SERMON ON MATTHEW 17:1-9



“GLORIOUS”

Wherever Jesus is—it’s glorious!

Sermon Notes & Outline

1. Intro – is life always **glorious**? Yes, if Jesus is there!

(The context – Jesus has taken the disciples away up north to the area of Caesarea Philippi. Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Then Jesus tells them all He is going to suffer, die, and be raised.)

Mt. 17:1 “Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.”

2. Look at the glory of Jesus!

Mt. 17:2-5 "He was transfigured before them...shone like the sun...clothes became white as light...Moses and Elijah, talking with him...a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.""

3. Jesus is all you need for "**glorious**".

In this life there won't always be the glory of the transfiguration. But all they needed and all we need is Jesus. He Himself is the full glory of God.

Mt. 17:7-8 "Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only."

4. Let's go down the mountain and into life with Jesus.

a. Our faces shining like Moses coming from God's presence in the Divine Service.

Mt. 17:9 "And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.""

b. Jesus goes with us and makes all life glorious, even suffering.



SATURDAY - January 27, 2024 Septuagesima ("70" days before Easter)

The Sunday of the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

*Daniel 9:2-10; 1 Cor. 9:24—10:4; Matt. 20:1-16

Hymns: 566, 662, 827, 643

Prayer is one of the weapons that God gives us against our enemies in the spiritual battles we must fight. Daniel yielded that weapon of prayer as he lived in exile in Babylon. We'll especially note how important prayer is to keep us from falling away from Christ.





Love life.
Love your neighbor's life.
LIFE SUNDAY

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (JOHN 10:10).

From the time of conception to the time of natural death — and every time in between — life is a gift.

LCMS Life Ministry is devoted to upholding the sanctity of human life, both in our church body and in the culture at large. We work domestically and internationally on pro-life projects that serve men, women, children, families and those unable to speak for themselves.



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To turn hearts:

O Author of life, You did not reject our first parents who chose themselves over Your promised care, but You gave them the hope of a marvelous salvation from sin's futility in Eve's very Offspring. Turn the hearts of all who will not know You, who believe they hold the power of life and death, and who trust in the choices of the sinful heart over the promises of God. Bring them into the knowledge of what is good, that they may know the profound value of all human life, which You have created and redeemed, and the everlasting truth of salvation in the Offspring who has crushed Satan's head forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For government and judicial officials:

Almighty and everlasting God, who rules all things in heaven and earth, give Your wisdom to the leaders of this government and nations throughout the world, that they may seek to govern with justice and compassion. As they create policies and legislation, cause them to defend the lives of all people. We pray for judges and court officials, that they may seek to do what is right in Your eyes and that all their decisions would be founded in justice and truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For expectant mothers vulnerable to abortion:

O God, our merciful Protector, arise with counsel and comfort for all expectant mothers vulnerable or pressured to seek abortion. Give them clarity of mind to see death for the enemy that it is, open their eyes to possibilities when they can see no other option, and give compassion to Your church, that she may be eager and ready to apply the balm of Christ's forgiveness and love to them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For those grieving abortion decisions:

The Lord sees and knows us in the womb. He alone knows the hearts of all, and He knows how far it hurts or destroys people more than we do.

(Isaiah 43:25; Psalm 32:7) Merciful Father, You have promised that for Your own sake You blot out our transgressions and will not remember our sins. By Your blessed Gospel, forgive the sins of those who grieve past abortion decisions, and give them certainty that Your Son's absolving blood was shed to cover this very guilt and shame. Give readiness by Your Holy Spirit to pastors and Christian friends, that they may be surrounded by constant acclamations of their deliverance; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For those who are barren or experiencing infertility:

Lord God, heavenly Father, You created the first human family with Adam and Eve and commanded them to multiply and fill the earth. We pray for those who have the desire to have a family and multiply but remain childless. For those who remain unmarried, fill the barren areas of their lives with brothers and sisters in Christ; for the married couples struggling with infertility, fill their emptiness with contentment in Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For people experiencing depression:

O loving Creator, at the dawn of creation You said it was not good that man was alone. Open Your ears to hear our lament, and give us eyes to see that You have provided us with a family in our local congregation in which we may thrive and bear much fruit. Strengthen those who are depressed and calm those who are anxious, that they may learn to take solace in Your churches, where You have promised to be in their midst. For You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

That the lives of people with disabilities would be valued:

O Champion of the meek, open our eyes and soften our hearts, that we may see the beauty in all humans — not because of the symmetry of their face or the number of their limbs, but because they are made in Your holy image. Open our mouths so that we may not speak hastily, but always act in love toward our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

To end assisted suicide:

Almighty God, as You continue to give life, You give value to that life; it is not ours to take away. We earnestly pray that in those places where assisted suicide is legal, the laws would be changed, and that new attempts to make it legal will fail. Work on the hearts of those who espouse this path to death, and lead them to repentance and the forgiveness of Christ. Bring a stop to their practice, a change in their laws and a willingness to allow people to live until their natural death. Give us hearts that value life — from conception to natural death — as You do; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

