



St. James Lutheran Church
Fishersville, VA
February 11, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of ✚ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

Transfiguration of Our Lord



He was transfigured before them ...
and his clothes became dazzling white ...
Mark 9:2-3, NRSV

ENTRANCE HYMN: "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" (WOV 652)

GREETING

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

KYRIE



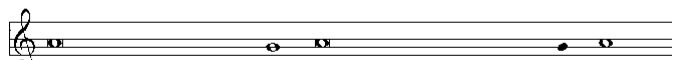
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



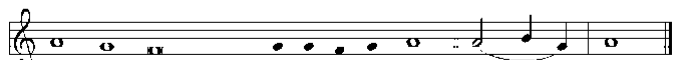
☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE



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



☩ 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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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:

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

2 Kings 2:1-12

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah 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. ³The 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."

⁴Elijah 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. ⁵The 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."

⁶Then 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. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then 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.

⁹When 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." ¹⁰He 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." ¹¹As 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. ¹²Elisha 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.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 50:1-6



- ¹The mighty one, God the ¹LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun ¹ to its setting.
- ²**Out of Zion, perfect ¹ in its beauty,
God shines ¹ forth in glory.**
- ³Our God will come and will ¹ not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a ¹ raging storm.
- ⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth ¹ from above
to witness the judgment ¹ of the people.**
- ⁵“Gather before me my ¹ loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed ¹ it with sacrifice.”
- ⁶**The heavens declare the rightness ¹ of God’s cause,
for it is God ¹ who is judge.**

SECOND READING:

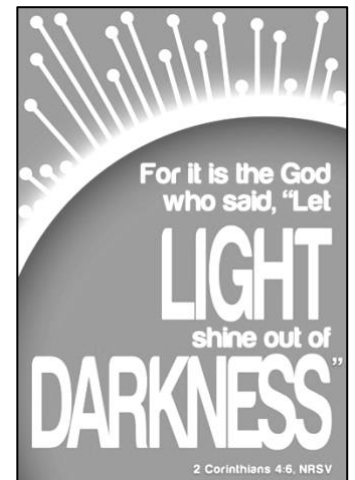
The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled 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 we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For 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.

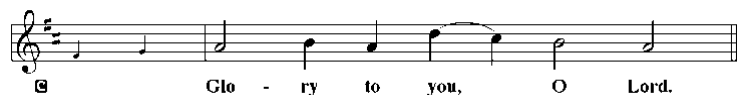
Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.



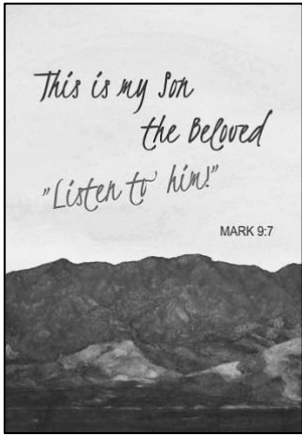
FYI: This is the last time we will sing the Alleluia until Easter.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9



Mark’s gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus’ followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God’s glory manifest in the beloved Son.

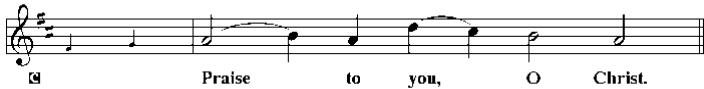
²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on



earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then 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.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON: Rev. Gordon Putnam

HYMN OF THE DAY: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (WOV 649)

APOSTLE’S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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



THE PRAYERS

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for any who are sick and suffering especially we pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Susan, Claire, Charles, and Ellen. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

OFFERING

ANTHEM: "Walk in the Light!" Text, Bernard Barton, music, Francis J. Haydn

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.



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.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

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.

THANKSGIVING

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

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

**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

At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
 Come and see.

COMMUNION

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

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Giver of every gift,
 Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body.
 Raise us to life by your power
 for the benefit of all and to your glory,
 now and forever.
 Amen.


CLOSING HYMN: “Shine, Jesus Shine” (WOV 651)

BLESSING

God who names you,
 Christ who claims you,
 and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
 + bless you and remain with you always.
 Amen.

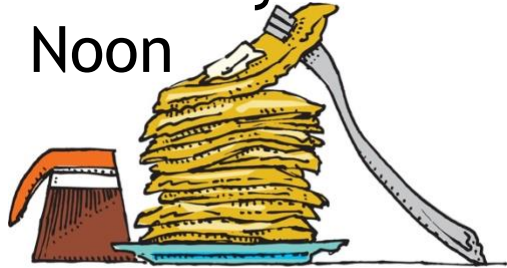
Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.
 Thanks be to God.



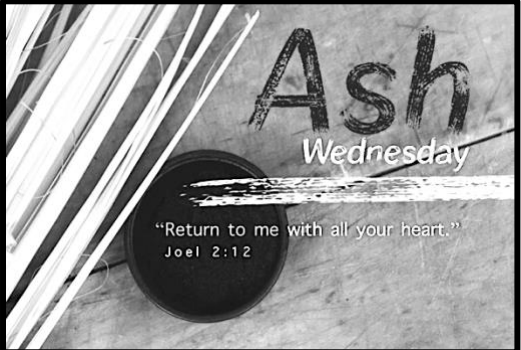
February
 11th Ivan Diehl
 14th Ash Wed. at 1pm
 18th Bambi Straw
 25th Anne Putnam
 28th Lenten service at 1pm

February 13th
 Noon



SHROVE TUESDAY

Ash Wednesday Service
 February 14, 1:00 pm



Ash
 Wednesday

“Return to me with all your heart.”
 Joel 2:12

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

11 th	Mark Grove
14 th	Jean Geiser
14 th	Bambi Straw
15 th	Alex Diehl
20 th	Pam Diehl
27 th	John Wright



We need your help the Backpack program now has 19 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is also an offering basket for financial support of the program.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mac and cheese | Kroger meals |
| Chef Boyardee meals | Fruit cups |
| Boxes of cereal | Poptarts |
| Oatmeal | Ramen Noodles, any kind |
| Boxed juices | Yahoo chocolate milk |
| Apple sauce | Raisins |
| “Hugs” Drink Barrels | All single servings |

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby (Ellen & Charles’ grandson), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny’s aunt), Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie’s aunt), and Susan Zirges (friend of Sherie & Paul).

Community Conversations

- February flowers are given by Anne Putnam
- February 13th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon at noon.
- February 13th Council meeting following the Pancake Luncheon (approximately 2pm.)
- February 18th Congregational meeting for acceptance of the Annual Report.
- February 20th Quilt Group meets at 1pm.
- February 25th Our next Sunday Soup and Sandwich Luncheon will benefit Valley Mission. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- February 28th Lenten Soup Lunch—A simple meal of soup, bread and water. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater. Sign-up sheet to indicate any/all of the performance you’re interested in seeing.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley’s home.
- Men’s Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - February—Ivan Diehl

Thrivent Insurance has always had a program to donate money to churches. Recently they have offered a program called Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you have an account with Thrivent you can go online and designate money to St. James. Call 800-847-4836 or Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

Pastor Gordon Putnam
 434-760-0263
Grputnam1949@gmail.com
 Pastor Carl Trost
 Hannah Pingel, Pianist
 Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

Feb 13th **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch at Noon**
Feb 14th **Ash Wednesday Service, 1 pm**

Lenten Services

Our Lenten journey this year is titled “Sing With All The Saints in Glory.” Each week we will lift up the lives of saints from the past. You will find a list of the many saints that we commemorate in the front of our hymnal. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our own Christian journey.



Feb 21st Grace Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship
Inheritance of Faith

George Herbert was an English Anglican country priest and renowned poet.

John and Charles Wesley were Anglican priests, missionaries to America, and eventual founders of the Methodist movement.

Feb 28th St. James Lutheran, Noon Soup, 1 pm Worship
Perseverance with Endurance

Perpetua and Felicity were early Christian martyrs who chose to die rather than forsake their faith in Jesus and their commitment to each other.

Harriet Tubman was Moses to her people, leading many enslaved people to freedom during the horror of American slavery.

Sojourner Truth was an enslaved woman in New York, sued for her freedom, then spent the rest of her life working for abolition and women’s suffrage.

March 6th Zion Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship
Faithful in Prayer

Gregory the Great was a sixth-century pope who is often remembered as one of the “fathers of Christian worship” because of his work revising the liturgy and making developments in church music.

Patrick was a missionary to Ireland. Called by God to carry the good news of Jesus to the Irish, he became one of the founders of the great Celtic tradition of Christianity.

March 13th Grace Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm worship
Striving for Justice

Archbishop Oscar Romero was an outspoken critic of the government corruption, military abuse, and oppression of the people of his native El Salvador and was martyred while celebrating mass in 1980.

Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt becoming refugees at the hands of a tyrant ruler.

March 20th Bethlehem Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship
Dying and Rising with Christ

Hans Nielsen Hauge, a nineteenth-century Norwegian lay preacher who initiated a religious revival in his home country, Norway.

John Donne was a seventeenth-century English poet and dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London.