

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**Transfiguration of Our Lord ✠ February 14, 2021**

**PRELUDE – "THE HEALING HAND OF GOD" – FRANKLIN RITTER**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination*

Holy God,  
**you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✠ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

**HYMN #733 "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"**

### GREETING

The boundless grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 LESSON

**2 KINGS 2:1-12**

### PSALM 50

<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 LESSON

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL:

**MARK 9:2-9**

The Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

**HYMN #614 "THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD"**

## 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

## THE PRAYERS

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** *The pastor offers the prayer.*

### 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

## HOLY COMMUNION

### BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

### PRAYER

Let us pray...Heavenly Father, you revealed the true radiance of your Son in the glory of His Transfiguration. Give us the grace and vision to behold our LORD in the food we receive from heaven; through Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

God the creator strengthens you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

### HYMN #632 "O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE — "TO THE GLORY OF GOD" — GERALD PETERSON

✠                      ✠                      ✠

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**WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!** We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex. Blank envelopes in the pews are for visitors. *"God's purpose for St. Paul's Lutheran Blue" Church is to spread the Good News of Christ's love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond.* — Blue Church Mission Statement, adopted 2012

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### THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

*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 closets friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. 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.

**ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....**

**2 KINGS 2:1-12:** 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 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6:** 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 out of darkness at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

**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.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...**Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Lillian Frey, Ann Greensweig, Shirley Hildebrand, Walt Lehr, Jerry Smith, Hattie Smith, Bob Storat, Sue Storat

**Other concerns:** Kevin Jones, deployment; Todd and Dottie.  
*Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in "acute care" situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of those for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.*

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>CELEBRANT</b>          | The Rev. James Hammond |
| <b>ORGANIST</b>           | Dr. Jennifer Dodd      |
| <b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b> | Maggie Fried           |
| <b>LECTOR</b>             | Maggie Fried           |
| <b>GREETERS</b>           | Greg & Wendy Storat    |
| <b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b> | Ed Risi                |

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17 NO ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES.**  
**THURSDAY, FEB. 18 – 6:30 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364 Mtg.**  
**SUNDAY, FEB. 21 – 10:30 AM 1ST SUNDAY IN Lent.**

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**THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE** - Blue Church is collecting gently used coats for the winter season to help those who can use them. You can bring in coats and drop them in the bin in the narthex. Many thanks to all those who have already donated coats.

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**BLUE CHURCH NOTES**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

- Masks must be worn at all times properly covering one's nose and mouth.
- There will be no formal collection of offering or passing of the peace. Receptacles will be provided in the narthex area for worshippers to deposit their offering envelopes (which may also be mailed in to the church office).
- In order to provide a sanitary and safe Holy Communion experience we are using pre-filled Communion chalices.

• **PLEASE NOTE** – If you would like to help defray the extra expense of the Communion cups you can use your Communion envelope in your box of offering envelopes or a plain envelope marked "Communion" with your name.

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**UPDATE ON BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY**

We are still collecting detergent for the Pantry. There is an increased demand and they are requesting 100 bottles for our month, which is September. We still have 6 months to collect and we have 18 so far. They can be left at the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. They can also be placed in the Narthex.

In addition, the most needed items at the Pantry right now are:

Meat helpers (especially tuna helper)  
Toilet Paper  
Non-sugar cereals  
Canned Pasta  
Tooth Brushes  
Deodorant  
Body wash

You are always welcome to bring these items to church, or if it is more convenient, they can be brought directly to the Pantry on Wednesdays from 9 – 10 AM. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

We also have a need for someone to organize donations of furniture/appliances. This only involves phone calls/emails – no physical pick up or delivery. We receive calls to donate these things sometimes and there is always someone who needs that item. We just need someone to make the connections of giver to receiver.

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**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER CHECK ON WFMZ FOR CHURCH CLOSING.**

## LESSONS

### **2 Kings 2:1-12 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

**2** 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.'

**4** 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.'

**6** 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.

**9** 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.

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### **2 Corinthians 4:3-6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

<sup>3</sup>And 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.

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

<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.

gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup> For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

**St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church**  
**Prayers ✠ Transfiguration of Our Lord ✠**  
**February 14, 2021**

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need responding,

**“Have mercy, O God.”**

*A brief silence*

A: 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, let us pray.

**“Have mercy, O God.”**

*A brief silence*

A: 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.”**

A: 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, let us pray.

**“Have mercy, O God.”**

A: For all who suffer this day, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace. Today we pray especially for, Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Lillian, Ann, Shirley, Walt, Jerry, Hattie, Bob, Sue, Kevin, Todd, Dottie, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Let us pray.

**“Have mercy, O God.”**

A: For companions on life's journey in this worshipping 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.”**

A: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

**“Have mercy, O God.”**

**Pastor: 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.**