

Transfiguration
Sunday, February 11th, 2024
Holy Communion 10 am



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.

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
121 N. SPRING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057
Sunday Worship 10:00am and Wednesday 10:00am

THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE

St. Peter's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation joining with Reconciling Works.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome and invite all of God's people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status.

SERVING OUR CHURCH

February 11th, 2024

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth *featuring* Dan Allegar

Reader:

John Ponnett

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

GREETING AND RESPONSE

The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.**

GATHERING HYMN: Beautiful Savior ELW 838 v 1, 2 & 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

WORD

FIRST READING: 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.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

We will read the Psalm responsively.

PSALM: Psalm 50:1-6

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)

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

**²Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence; with a

consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

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

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**⁶The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

SECOND READING: 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 at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW page 142

Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel according to St. Mark the ninth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

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 Humankind had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

YOUNG WORSHIPPERS' MESSAGE SERMON

HOD: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW 631 v 1, 2 & 3

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith:

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 to the dead.* 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.

Please be seated for the prayers. We will say the response together.

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

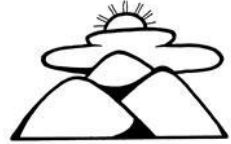
God of Grace, **Receive our prayer.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

C: and also with you

P: share that peace with one another



OFFERING SONG

OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: ELW page 144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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

All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table and all are welcome. The Ushers will bring you forward. The Pastor will give you the bread and the communion assistant will have a tray of wine. Please take one cup and drink it. An Acolyte will collect the empty cup. You can go to the rail for a silent prayer or return to your seat.

COMMUNION SONGS

Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715 v 1, 2 & 3

Eat This Bread ELW 472



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

BLESSING

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Standing is optional.

SENDING: Shine, Jesus, Shine ELW 671

DISMISSAL:

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The bulletins are dedicated in memory of Mrs. H. R. Kleinfelter by William & Barbara Kleinfelter.

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St. Peter's News

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month:

Cindy Lippy, Mae Stum, Thelma Thomas, Doris Arnold, Regina Heagy, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ben Chappell, Mary Houser, and Richard Brandt.

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: Dorothy Murphy, Karen Ainsley, Ida Kramer, Betty Wise, Stephanie Kastelik, Brenda Stum, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, George Fuoti, Linda Holmes, Jim Hurst, and Tina Polito.

****SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES****

Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Corbin Stetler, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will have two offerings for Ash Wednesday this year: 10am & 7pm. Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, February 14th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Peter's Sunday School program is back! We will meet in the café after church on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays at 11am. We ask parents to join us in the lessons and help the kids grow in their faith journeys.

THE CHOSEN SERIES

Join Pastor Molly & Bennett on Wednesday evenings starting February 21st centered around the critically-acclaimed drama, "The Chosen," which portrays the story of Jesus through the perspective of his followers. We will meet in Luther Hall at 6:30pm for a meal of soup and bread while we watch the series followed by a discussion at 7pm.

TOGETHER ASSISTANT POSITION

The TOGETHER program is seeking to fill a paid assistant position. The TOGETHER Assistant provides guidance, leadership and opportunities for social, educational, service, recreation, and multi-cultural appreciation for the local community's youth and families. This person should be able to work well with young people,

has strong communication skills, and is flexible and adaptable in a team atmosphere. This person should be over the age of 18 and should be available Mondays and Wednesdays from 3pm to 5pm. If you are interested, please reach out to Alex Mabee at her email amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org or call her at 832-752-6833.

TOGETHER MENTOR

TOGETHER is looking for male volunteer mentors to come in and help for an hour several days a week. We are asking this person to help with making meals, talking with the youth, and possibly playing games with the kids. The times would be from 3pm to 4pm. If you are interested, please reach out to Alex Mabee at her email amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org or call her at 832-752-6833.

SUMMER CAMP 2024

Summer Camp programs and registrations forms are available for Kirchenwald and Nawakwa for the 2024 season. There are a variety of programs available for a wide range of ages. Please see Sharon for more information and to learn how to get a discount on your registration. Pamphlets are available by the office.

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE

Meet the Nawakwa or Kirchenwald staff on Sunday, March 17th & Sunday April 14th from 2pm-4:30pm. You will tour the facilities and receive a \$10 coupon for the camp store for each new camper! For more information, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call 717-677-8211

LENTEN DAY APART

Visit the Wittle Farm on Saturday, February 24th from 9am-3pm to begin your Lenten journey to Easter. Casual, comfortable clothing is appropriate. \$15 registration fee covers the program and meal costs. Register by February 16th at www.LutheranCamping.org or call 717-677-8211

NYG FEBRUARY SOUP SALE

Come support our youth traveling to the National Youth Gathering by preordering some soup after church each Sunday or after Chapel on Wednesdays. Please fill out the form by February 18th. The soup is being made by the youth and will be frozen for your convenience. Pickup is February 25th or after.

SPRING GARAGE SALE

TOGETHER, St. Peter's Youth, and Hope Academy are hosting a garage sale fundraiser on April 12th from 5pm-8pm and on April 13th from 9am-3pm. If you have items you would like to donate to the sale or need help transporting your donations, especially clothes, household items, and games, please contact Alex at: AMabee@StPetersMiddletown.org. Donations are accepted now to April 1st!

CELEBRATIONS

If you have a special celebration you'd like to highlight in the bulletin, please email Jen at: JKemper@StPetersMiddletown.org or call the office at: 717-944-4651. Birthdays and anniversaries will be printed monthly, but we would also like to highlight other special events in our congregation or community, such as graduations, academic honors, sports achievements, engagements, or any other notable event you'd like to share.

COMMUNITY NEED

A member of our community has reached out in need of furniture. If you have furniture you'd like to donate, please email Jen what you have and whether you are able to bring it to the church. Thank you! JKemper@stpetersmiddletown.org

717 VINTAGE

Beginning February 1st, St. Peter's will have a room reserved at the 717 Vintage Shop on S Union street in Middletown. If you have items you would like to donate, contact Sharon at: 717-991-0901 or sbeard712@gmail.com. All proceeds will go to church ministries.

OFF THE STREETS

Off the Streets is a local program serving individuals and families facing housing insecurity. Their mission is to support people in their transition from being unhoused to housed safely. Off the Streets is in need of kitchen supplies such as: pots & pans, dishes, glassware, and utensils, as well as towels, blankets, and bedsheets. If you would like to donate these items or learn more about the program, contact Off the Streets at: 717-460-2137 or email: info@offthestreetsmiddletownpa.org

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Join TOGETHER at Hoffer Park from 10am-1pm to learn about ways we can protect our planet. We will also be doing fun science experiments, playing games (including a bounce house), enjoying food trucks, and more!

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

