

The Last of the Alleluias

This week is the last in Epiphanytide. Next Sunday, we will move into Gesimatide, or Pre-Lent Season. Following today's focus on the manifestation of Jesus in His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, the Church descends from this mountain of glory back to the plains, in preparation for His journey to Jerusalem, to His suffering and death—and then to His resurrection.

The names of the Sundays in the pre-Lenten period are named Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima. These Latin words simply mean 'seventieth', 'sixtieth' and 'fiftieth', marking their approximate distance from Easter.

As we follow the Lord to the plain, the mood of worship changes. The joyful Alleluia and the Gloria in excelsis are omitted (the Alleluia and Verse are replaced by the Tract). The word Alleluia ("Praise the LORD") is silenced until it resounds again at the Vigil of Easter to welcome our Risen Lord.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Week Ahead

31 Jan	3.15pm	Drama Club
1 Feb	1pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	2pm	Devotion at Kiln Lodge
	3pm	Devotion at Hunters Lodge
2 Feb	7.45pm	Bible Study (Parsonage)
4 Feb	5.30pm	Saturday Supper (Scout Hall)
5 Feb	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)

Further ahead

7–8 Feb	Barnes Conference at Good Shepherd, Coventry	
8 Feb	<i>No Pastor's Surgery</i>	
9 Feb	7.45pm	Bible Study (Parsonage)
12 Feb	<i>Pastor Tapani at St. Timothy's Sunderland</i>	
	10.30am	Morning Service (Scout Hall)
	4.30pm	Divine Service at Brighton Mission

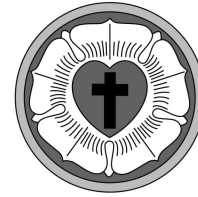
Next Sunday's Readings:

Exodus 17:1–7; 1 Cor. 9:24–10:5; Matthew 20:1–16

Daily Readings:

Sun: Zechariah 8:1–23 2 Timothy 1:1–18 *Large Catechism V: 31–41*
Mon: Zech 9:1–17 2 Tim 2:1–26 *LC V: 42–57*
Tue: Zech 10:1–11:3 2 Tim 3:1–18 *LC V: 58–74*
Wed: Zech 11:4–17 2 Tim 4:1–18 *LC V: 75–87*
Thu: Zech 12:1–13:9 Titus 1:1–2:6 *Smalcald Articles Preface: 1–7*
Fri: Zech 14:1–21 Titus 2:7–3:15 *SA Preface: 8–15*
Sat: Job 1:1–22 John 1:1–18 *SAI; III*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church



The Transfiguration of Our Lord 29 January 2012

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A note to visitors

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

The Offering

This morning, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

Holy Communion

It is our desire that all people receive the body and blood of our Lord at this altar! However, our Lord has told us in His Word that His body and blood, given into our mouths, are powerful and not to be given or received lightly or in a careless way. Therefore, in respecting the Word of the Lord that anyone who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner is doing harm to themselves, and that He desires that all who commune together be truly united in the confession of the truth, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

All who are visiting us and who desire to commune with us are asked to first speak with our pastor before the service, so that all can make an informed decision about participating with us in our fellowship in this place. *We are not condemning anyone with this practice*; we seek only to follow the Word of the Lord and carry out responsible pastoral care.

Thank you for honouring our beliefs.

A note on the service:

Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.

The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.

It helps to follow the service if you use this service bulletin as a bookmark.

Divine Service III **LSB 184**

402 Hymn: The Only Son from Heaven

184 Confession and Absolution

Catechism

P The Creed, Third Article

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Introit (Ps. 84:1-2a, 4, 10-11; antiphon: Ps. 77:18)



L Your lightnings lighted | up the world;*
the earth trem- | bled and shook.

C How lovely is your dwelling place, O | LORD
of hosts!*

My soul longs, yes, faints for the
courts | of the LORD;*

L Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,*
ever sing- | ing your praise!

C For a day in your courts is better than a
thousand | elsewhere.*

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the
house of my God than dwell in the tents
of | wickedness.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD

THE FORMULA OF CONCORD

ARTICLE II: FREE WILL

... The eternal Father calls down from heaven about His dear Son and about all who preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name, "Listen to Him" (Matthew 17:5).

All who want to be saved ought to listen to this preaching. For the preaching and hearing of God's Word are the Holy Spirit's instruments. By, with, and through these instruments the Spirit desires to work effectively, to convert people to God, and to work in them both to will and to do.

A person can hear and read this Word outwardly, even though he is not yet converted to God and regenerate. As said above, a person even since the fall has a free will to a certain extent in these outward things. So he can go to church and listen or not listen to the sermon.

God works through this means (i.e., the preaching and hearing of His Word). He breaks our hearts and draws us to Him. Through the preaching of the Law, a person comes to know his sins and God's wrath. He experiences in his heart true terrors, contrition, and sorrow. Through the preaching of, and reflection on, the Holy Gospel about the gracious forgiveness of sins in Christ, a spark of faith is kindled in him. This faith accepts the forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake and comforts itself with the Gospel promise. So the Holy Spirit (who does all this) is sent into the heart.

... If a person will not listen to preaching or read God's Word, but despises God's Word and community, and so dies and perishes in his sins, he cannot comfort himself with God's eternal election or receive His mercy. For Christ, in whom we are chosen, offers to all people His grace in the Word and holy Sacraments. He sincerely wants it to be heard. He has promised that where two or three are gathered together in His name and have His holy Word, He will be in their midst. paragraphs 51-57

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Sermon

192 *The Offertory*

Offering

193 *Prayer of the Church*

631 Hymn: Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

194 *The Service of the Sacrament*

199 *Nunc Dimittis and Post-Communion Prayers*

202 *Blessing*

414 Hymn: 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

Sunday School Presentation

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members

Ron Miller

Family and friends of members

Lucy, Diana; Frank Knibbs; Helen Kriewaldt; Eric Hinkley; Johann Wiebusch; Claire; Margaret & Patrick Tustin; Brian, Jan & family; Lisa; Julie; Corrine & family; Cynthia; Marie & family; Diane; Sally; Claire and Phil; Gina & family; Molly; Julie Gardner; Christine; Georgie and Nigel; Geoff & family

ELCE

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; Pr. Effiong; family of †Jean Leed; Boor family; Van Fossan family

The Church of God

St. John the Evangelist, Fareham; Pr. Yousef Nadarkhani

L For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and | honour.*

No good thing does he withhold from those who walk up- | rightly.

C **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

L Your lightnings lighted | up the world,*
the earth trem- | bled and shook.

186 *Kyrie*

187 *Gloria in excelsis*

189 *Salutation and 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.

The Readings

Jesus Is Transfigured and Manifests His Glory

The Lord appeared to Moses in the light of the burning bush (Ex. 3:1-14). Later Moses' face would shine with the light of God's glory when he came down from Mount Sinai (Ex. 34:29-35). At the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with the One who is the Light of Light Himself (Matt. 17:1-9). Jesus' glory as God shines with brilliant splendour in and through His human nature. By this epiphany, our Lord confirmed the prophetic word (2 Pet. 1:16-21), revealing that He is the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets. He manifested His majesty as the eternal Son of the Father, and He wonderfully foreshowed our adoption as sons (Collect). We who have been baptised into Christ's body are given a glimpse of the glory that we will share with Him in the resurrection on the Last Day.

Old Testament reading—Exodus 34:29–35

²⁹When 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. ³²Afterwards 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.

Gradual (*Ps. 45:2a, 110:1*)

C You are the most handsome of the | sons of men;*
 grace is poured up- | on your lips.
 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,*
 until I make your enemies
 your | footstool.

Epistle Reading—2 Peter 1:16–21

¹⁶For 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 honour 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.

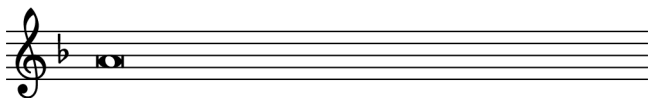
Alleluia & Verse (*Ps. 96:2–3*)



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu -



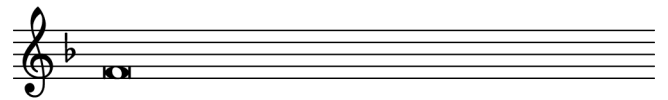
ia. Al - le - lu - - ia.



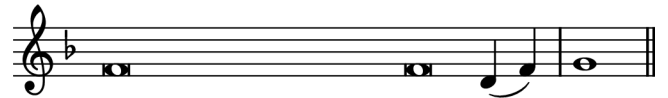
Sing to the Lord; tell of his salvation from



day to day.* Declare his



glory among the nations, his marvellous



works among all the peop - les! Al -



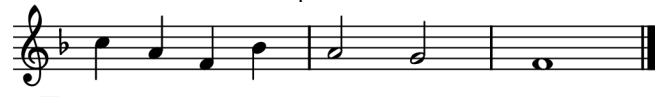
le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading—Matthew 17:1–9

L The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventeenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And 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." ⁵ He 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." ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

191 *The Nicene Creed*

413 *Hymn: O Wondrous Type, O Vision Fair*