

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 19th, 2023

Transfiguration of our Lord



Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

- PRELUDE
- WELCOME
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PRAYER REQUESTS

*For sections with an *, please stand as you are able*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

ALL: Amen.

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**ALL: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

**For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

L: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: Beautiful Savior
Green Book: #518**

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

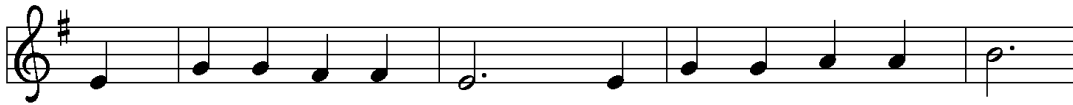
Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

*GREETING

L: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you

*KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

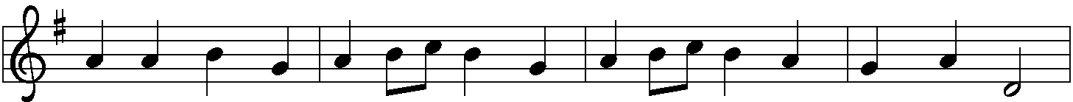
*HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the LORD" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

L: ¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 2

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

L: ¹Why are the nations in an uproar?
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

ALL: ²Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?

L: ³"Let us break their yoke," they say;
"let us cast off their bonds from us."

**ALL: ⁴God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the LORD holds them in derision.**

L: ⁵Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.

**ALL: ⁶“As for me, I have anointed my king
upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**

L: ⁷Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

**ALL: ⁸Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

L: ⁹You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

**ALL: ¹⁰And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

L: ¹¹Submit to the LORD with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;

**ALL: ¹²lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

L: 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 had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: ¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John 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 dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

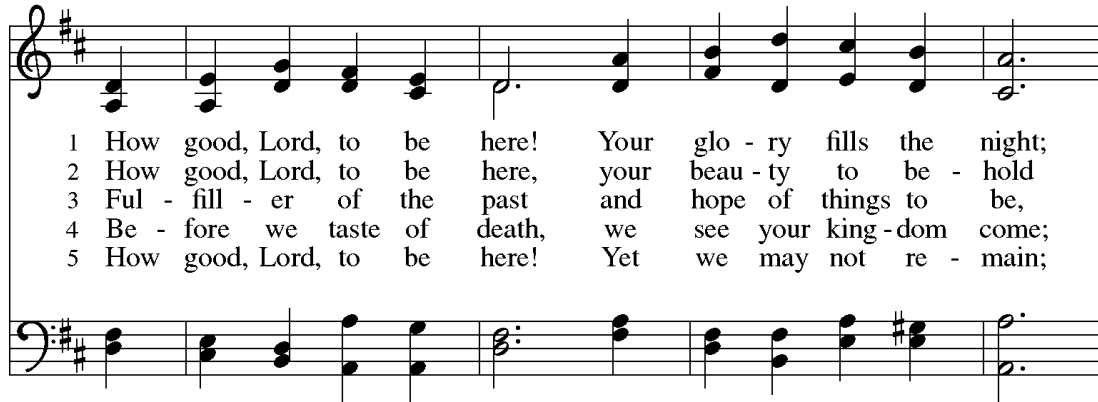
ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

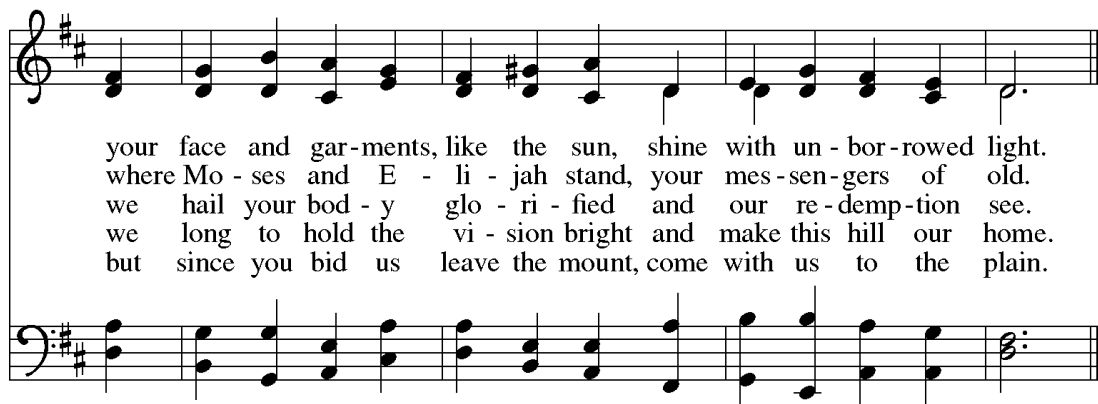
SERMON: Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill

***HYMN OF THE DAY: How Good, Lord, to be Here!**
Green Book: #89

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.
Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

***NICENE CREED**

L: Beloved, let us affirm our faith by use of the Apostle's Creed.

**ALL: 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each prayer ends with these words:

L: Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

L: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

ALL: Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

**You are invited to greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ's peace. Please be sure to have your neighbor's consent before sharing greetings with a handshake or other physical touch. Otherwise, sharing a wave, peace sign or a high-five are great ways to share the peace from a distance.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Any financial gifts you wish to give towards the ministry of Trinity may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the worship space. We give thanks for your sharing of your offerings this and every day.

L: Liberating God,

**ALL: you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,**

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

**You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

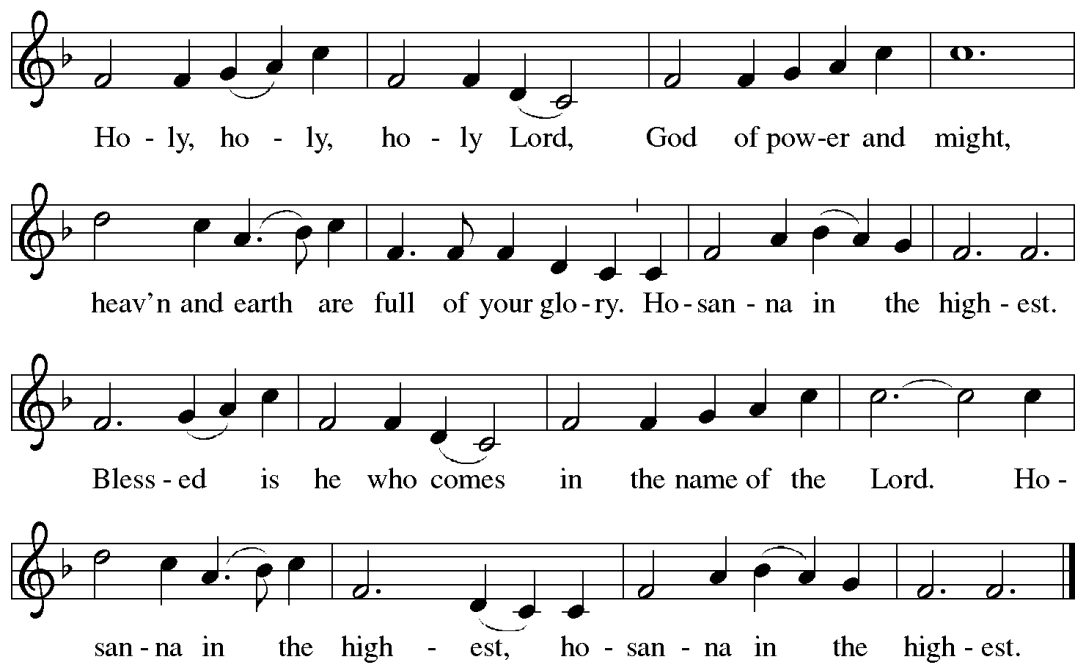
L: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,
that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: 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.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

ALL: 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**

L: Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God, who has come to save you.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The minister will give instruction on the distribution of communion.

COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN: Shine, Jesus, Shine Blue Book: #651

To be sung during the distribution of communion - until distribution is complete

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in God's grace, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Holy One,

**ALL: we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.**

Renew our strength to do justice,

love kindness,

and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

*BLESSING

L: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

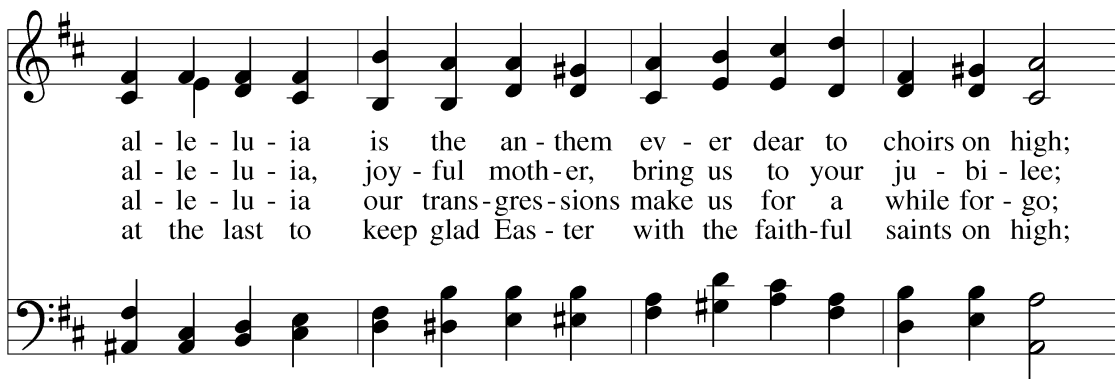
ALL: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: Alleluia, Song of Gladness Blue Book: #654

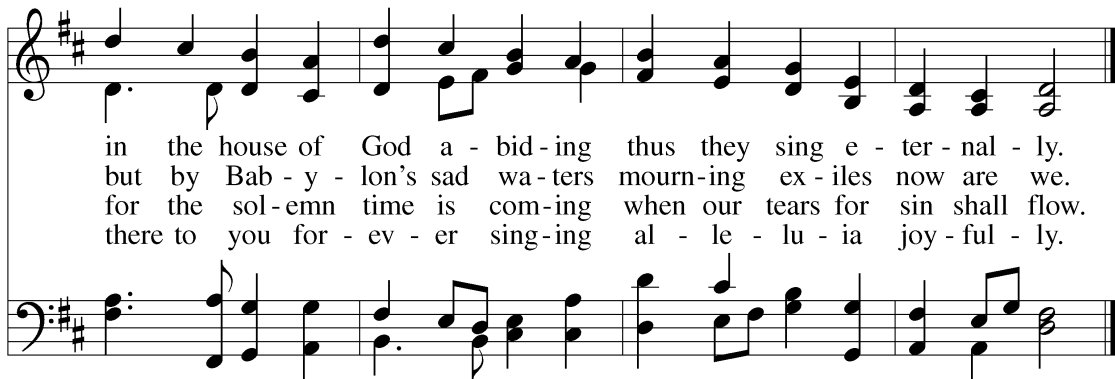
Alleluia, Song of Gladness



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Lead our prais - es, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
but by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn 11th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Office hours

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tracy: Thursdays 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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*God's love is powerful...powerful enough to wade through our doubts, fears, and challenges.
And, God's love is for YOU and ALL*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Pray For:

Strength & Healing for:

Judy Stuber Rowland – final stages of cancer
Marcy Hatswell – strength to face the days ahead
Emma Corbett – continued recovery
Michael – health issues
Carl Patterson, Sr. – broken hip
Debbie Smith – broken hip

The family & friends of:

Mary Frye
Clara Weber
Don Holmes
Judy Bell
Carl Patterson
Johanna Metz Coleman

Safe travel for: Nicolena Farzio

Praise & Thanksgiving for: Jim – Diane Hurne’s son, who is back to work!

Prayers are a powerful way to lift up people who are sick, injured or suffering for God's healing. Let us know of names you would like to have the church pray for, and we'll add them to the list here and in the Beacon. If you wish for names to remain anonymous, you can let Pastor Rick know privately and he'll pray for them silently. Names will remain in the bulletin and Beacon for around a month unless you let us know to extend their listing or remove them sooner. There is a list near the offering collection plate to write names down, or you can leave a message with the church office.

Counters: February: Jennifer, March: Paula, April: MaryLou

Property Committee

There will be a property meeting on TODAY following worship. Please join us!

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to all those who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring! The proceeds will go to the Community of Good Neighbors.

Sunday School

Join us for our next Sunday School on February 26th! We will be painting so please feel free to send a smock with your child (or clothes that can get messy.)

Communion Helpers:

We have resumed our communion “helpers”! Any child that wishes to help with communion by handing out goldfish to the other children during communion is welcome. Pastor will ask for a volunteer during service and will choose a different volunteer to help each week. Every child will get a chance to help if they desire.

Bible Study:

Bible study in the book of Matthew continues on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. There will be no meeting on Ash Wednesday. Bible study will continue through Lent when we add in some Lenten Devotions, too.

Choir

Choir is meeting Wednesdays at 7:30 all are welcome. Please see David for additional Sunday rehearsal dates. There will be no choir March 8 & 15th.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship will be **February 22nd at 7pm.**

Not able to make it to Ash Wednesday worship in the evening? Stop by for Ashes to Go to start your day! Pastor Rick will be at the church doors from 7-9 am on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22nd).

Simply drive up and Pastor will meet you at your car to offer ashes and a short prayer. It will only take a minute. A great way get you started on your workday and your Lenten journey.

Little Food Pantry

The Little food Pantry is in constant need of restocking. Dry, non-perishable items like peanut butter and mac ‘n cheese will help keep the pantry afloat to help those in need. Please spread the word so we can get the community involved as well. There is a collection box in the narthex, or you can place your items in the Pantry itself.

Synod Lenten Collection

For the last three years during Lent we have held a friendly "competition" to see who could collect the most toilet paper, period products, and diapers. This year we would like to challenge your congregation to collect change for change.

Millions of Americans are struggling under the weight of medical debt. Nearly ½ of all Americans struggle to afford healthcare costs. For Black, Hispanic, and low-income adults that figure jumps to at least 6 in 10. We are working with nonprofit medical debt to make a difference. They have a unique model that combines generosity of donors with debt industry experts to produce a high volume of debt relief. Every \$100 dollars donated leads to about \$10,000 forgiven. For mere pennies on the dollar you can help relieve someone of the crushing weight of debt. Our Synod goal is \$10,000 dollars. All of this would be forgiven in New York State.

Read more about this organization here <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/> or in this article by NPR [Organization Forgives Billions! Click Here to Read.](#)

Stay tuned for more details on how the money will be collected.

Adult Forum

Adult Forum Book Study: Tattoos on the Heart

We have our next book that we are going to dive into in our Adult Forum times this spring: *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Gregory Boyle. More on the book:

For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally. From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JCPenney fresh out of prison, we learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Lula we learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Pedro we understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the darkness. In each chapter we benefit from Boyle's gentle, hard-earned wisdom.

These essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair. Gorgeous and uplifting, *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

Options to get your copy of *Tattoos on the Heart*:

- Pastor Rick has copies available for purchase for \$10 each.
- The Erie County Public Library has copies available for loan.
- You can also purchase your own copy elsewhere.

We'll dive into our book at these upcoming Adult Forum times following Sunday worship:

10:45 am on March 19th

10:45 am on April 16th

10:45 am on April 30th

Save the date: March 25th Spaghetti Supper

Mark your calendars for the Spaghetti Supper on March 25th. We'll be going back to in-person dining with a basket raffle! Stay tuned for a sign-up and more details.

In Search of:

Do you or someone you know have a spare laminator lying around that's not being used? If so, please see Ronda. She is looking for one for Sunday School use. Thanks!