

*For the week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord  
February 11<sup>th</sup> through February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Notes for the Week** — *“And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.” Mark 9:8*

Foundations matter. Anything you do in life, you need to learn the fundamentals. You can't progress to spelling or grammar without the alphabet. No matter how advanced you get in the language arts, you cannot leave the alphabet behind. If you go on to become an engineer, you cannot set aside simple arithmetic. And if you go to compete in a fight, but don't have a good stance or know how to properly form a fist...it doesn't matter how many techniques you know because they will not be effective.

The same is true with Christianity. Too often people think that progressing in Christianity means putting Jesus in the rearview mirror. Rarely is this intentional, yet it is what happens when we stray from the fundamentals of our faith. It does not matter how pious someone is. Jesus told the disciples that “unless your righteousness surpasses that of the pharisees, you will not inherit eternal life.” He wasn't lying. Yet such righteousness doesn't come through our efforts. It is only those who receive the righteousness of Christ through faith who “meet the standard” for eternal life. It doesn't matter how much you know. As we have heard Paul say, “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” It is only those who receive and share the love of Christ who build up the Body in faith. It doesn't even matter how much faith you have. You can go out having the utmost “faith” and command the clouds in the name of Jesus, but it does you no good. However, even faith as small as a mustard seed in the promises of Christ bring the dead to life.

That is the point God tries to get across to us over and over in Scripture. At the beginning of Epiphany, we had Jesus in the Jordan being baptized. The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father declared, “This is My Son, with whom I am well pleased.” The Spirit descended as a dove to rest upon Jesus. Now, at the end of Epiphany, we have the Transfiguration. Once again we hear the voice of the Father declaring, “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.” And when the disciples looked up, they saw Jesus alone.

I would take 10 people who made listening to Jesus in His Word their highest good over 100 people who were so “spiritual” that, as Luther would say, “they swallowed the Holy Spirit, feathers and all.” I would take those 10 over 100 who had the Bible memorized, but had no love of Jesus. I would take those 10 over 100 who did such mighty works that their entire lives sparked like polished gold but didn't know the grace of God in Jesus Christ, our Lord. As we turn from our celebration of Transfiguration and look toward the cross, may we humble ourselves so that when we look up we see no one but Jesus only. And may we then pursue knowing Him through His Word as our greatest good. Amen.

### ***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

#### **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

#### **VERSE: MARK 1:39**

And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**PSALM 147:1-11 and/or the appointed daily psalms.**

**Prayer on the Psalm**

*You, O Lord, our merciful and gracious Father, who has given unto us the knowledge of Your free grace in Jesus Christ, grant us grateful hearts which daily offer to You the true sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise, and graciously accept our sacrifice, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	97, 98	101	103	105	107	108, 110	113, 114	116, 117
Evening	99, 100	102	104	106	109	111, 112	115	118

**BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

	Bible Narrative for the Week	Second Reading
Sunday	Mark 1:29–39	
Monday	Holy Absolution for the Erring Brother—Matthew 18:14–35	
Tuesday	The Tree of Knowledge and the Tree of Life—Genesis 2:4–17	
Wednesday	Man Eats the Forbidden Fruit—Genesis 3:1–24	
Thursday	The Passover—Exodus 12:1–14, 17	
Friday	The Wedding in Cana of Galilee—John 2:1–11	
Saturday	Ex. 34:29–35	2 Cor. 3:12-18; 4:1-6

**The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar**

**What is the Sacrament of the Altar?**

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

**Where is this written?**

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: **Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Who receives this sacrament worthily?**

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: **Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.** But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "**for you**" require all hearts to believe.

**DEVOTION OR MEDITATION**

**DAILY PRAYER**

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

**Collect of the Week**

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Our Congregation:** *Samuel & Kaylynn White; David & Tracy White, Abby, Kady, Noah; Aaron Williams; Dick & Anita Williams; Krik & Lavonne Wright; Marilyn Zimmerman; Ruby Zorn*

**Baptismal Birthdays:** *Sofia Ellis; Sydney Helget*

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

**Members of the Congregation:** *Alan Barazza; Ronald Berr; Steph Beauchamp; Deena Rogers; Carol Bauck*

**Friends of our Congregation:** *Sally; Tom Corcoran; Friend of Ray Meyer; Demi & Kenneth, granddaughter and nephew of Linda Herrick; Trenton; Peggy Sloyer; Amy Peldo*

**Our Circuit:**

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett; Vacant*

*Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar; Vacant*

**Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.**

*Rev. Daniel Grams, Congregational & School Services*

*Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist*

**Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison**

**Our Community:** *City of Wellsville; USD 289*

**Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM**

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

—or—

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression  
And rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy  
To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in His sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him on the mountains  
Shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness in fountains  
From hill to valley flow.
- 4 Kings shall fall down before Him  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him,  
His praise all people sing.  
To Him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.
- 5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,  
He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever—  
That name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Text: Public domain

**Looking Forward to "The Transfiguration of Our Lord"**

**February 11, 2024**

**Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12 | 2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (14-18); 4:1-6 | Mark 9:2-9**

It was "a hard thing" that Elisha asked, but by his persistence he was able to see the prophet Elijah being taken "by a whirlwind into heaven." Although "chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them," Elisha received Elijah's cloak and a "double portion" of his spirit for preaching the Lord's Word (2 Kings 2:9-11). It was a hard thing, too, for Israel to see Moses and come near to him, when "the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God" (Ex. 34:29-30). Therefore, after "he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai," Moses "put a veil over his face" (Ex. 34:32-33). Only the Word of the Gospel lifts the veil, and "only through Christ is it taken away" (2 Cor. 3:14). Thus are we able to behold "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ," who is "the image of God" (2 Cor. 4:4-6). For the Law and the prophets are all fulfilled in Him. Therefore, "listen to him," and fix your sights on "Jesus only" (Mark 9:7-8)

