

*We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.*

*This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.*

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

# *The Transfiguration of Our Lord*

**February 11, 2024**

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of God the Creator, + Redeemer, and Sustainer.

**Amen.**

Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for the Great Lakes, the Don, the Humber and the Rouge Rivers and their creeks.

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

**We give you thanks for your salvation through water.**

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents, for children and grandchildren, for our siblings in Christ whom we have never seen and to whom we are bound.

**We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.**

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

**We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**HYMN ELW # 318 ALLELUIA, SONG OF GLADNESS**

**Alleluia, song of gladness,  
Voice of joy that cannot die;  
Alleluia is the anthem  
Ever dear to choirs on high;  
In the house of God abiding  
Thus they sing eternally.**

**Alleluia You are sounding,  
True Jerusalem and free;  
Alleluia, joyful mother,  
bring us to your jubilee;  
Here by Babylon's sad waters  
Mourning exiles now are we.**

**Alleluia cannot always  
Be our song while here below;  
Alleluia our transgressions  
Make us for a while forgo;  
For the solemn time is coming  
when our tears for sin shall flow.**

**In our hymns we pray with longing,  
Grant us, blessed Trinity,  
At the last to keep glad Easter  
With the faithful saints on high;  
There to you forever singing  
Alleluia joyfully.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## 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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### 2 KINGS 2:1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 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. 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." 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. 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."

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. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

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. 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." 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."

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. 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 50

The mighty one, God the Lord has spoken;

**calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,

**God shines forth in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;

**with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.**

God calls the heavens and the earth from above

**to witness the judgement of the people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers,

**those who made a covenant with me and sealed it by sacrifice"**

The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,

**for it is God who is judge.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

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. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MARK 9:2-9

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, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

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.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. 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.

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

SERMON

**HYMN # 315 HOW GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE**

**How good, Lord, to be here!**

**Your glory fills the night;**

**Your face and garments like the sun,**

**Shine with unborrowed light.**

**How good, Lord, to be here,**

**Your beauty to behold,**

**Where Moses and Elijah stand,**

**Your messengers of old.**

**Fulfiller of the past,**

**And hope of things to be:**

**We hail your body glorified,**

**And our redemption see.**

**Before we taste of death,**

**We see your kingdom come;**

**We long to hold the vision bright,**

**And make this hill our home.**

**How good, Lord, to be here!**

**Yet we may not remain;**

**But since you bid us leave the mount,**

**Come with us to the plain.**

## 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,  
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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's  
blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence*

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the  
hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and  
healing across time and space.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honour all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, provinces, and countries that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for any who are sick and suffering or grieving. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need, especially Ingrid, Tom, and all we name in our hearts.....

*pause*

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honour the dignity of all whom we encounter.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

*The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life*

### **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory;  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

in the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

## **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.**

**Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.  
Come. Be filled with light and life. **Thanks be to God!**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words*  
*“the body of Christ given for you”      “the blood of Christ shed for you”*

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen  
us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, 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.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

The God of glory dwell in you richly,  
Name you beloved,  
And shine brightly on your path;  
And the blessing of Almighty God,  
The Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit ,  
Be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **HYMN ELW # 838 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOUR**

**Beautiful Saviour, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Saviour, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honour, Praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE