

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 1—WEEK 22

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD



“WHAT KIND
OF CROSSES DID
PETER, JAMES,
& JOHN
CARRY UP
THE MOUNTAIN?”
MATTHEW 16 & 17

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Cindy Daluga, Disciple Care Coordinator
Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org

Ben Sanders, Mission Facilitator
office@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org



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THE BLASKO FAMILY IN CELEBRATION OF LIZ'S BIRTHDAY



THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Matthew's Gospel.
Matthew is the focus of Year 1 Gospel readings in the Narrative Lectionary.

Transfiguration Verses 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

LSB 414 sts. 1-2

1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy
 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy
 glo - ry fills the night; Thy face and gar - ments,
 beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -
 like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.

Invocation (Based on Matthew 11:28-30)

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Holy Gospel of the Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-8 (ESV)

¹And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, 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 white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And 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." ⁵He 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." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

Responsive Psalm

From Psalm 99

P: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

C: **let the earth quake!**

P: The LORD is great in Zion;

C: **he is exalted over all the peoples.**

P: Let them praise your great and awesome name!

C: **The LORD our God is holy!**

P: The King in his might loves justice.

He has established equity, justice, and righteousness in the land.

Exalt the LORD our God;

C: **The LORD our God is holy!**

P: Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called upon his name.

C: **They called to the LORD, and he answered them.**

P: O LORD our God, you answered them;

C: **you were a forgiving God to them,**

P: Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

C: **The LORD our God is holy!**

Response Verse

'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

LSB 414 st. 3

3 Ful - fill - er of the past And
hope of things to be, We hail Thy bod - y
glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.

Confession and Absolution (Matthew 22:34-40;19:16-26;18:13-14,19-20;20:28)

P: When asked “Teacher, what is the great commandment in the Law?”, Jesus said,

**C: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.
And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

P: Jesus said, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

**C: This brings us sorrow, Lord,
Because we treasure many things which are not focused on You.
Who then can be saved?**

P: Jesus declares, “With people this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible.”

He rejoices more over finding one lost sheep than over the ninety-nine that
never went astray. It is not His will that one of you should perish.

**C: For the Lord has promised:
Where two or three are gathered in His Name,
He is among us with His forgiveness.**

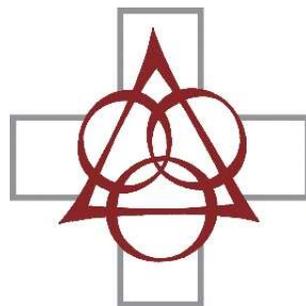
P: Indeed, He is here in the power of His forgiveness for you today.

He comes not to be served

but to serve, to give His life as a ransom for you.

Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive
you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires;
with the assistance of the Pastors of Circuit 1 of the Northern Illinois District (LCMS).

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Response of Thanksgiving for the Absolution

LSB 414, sts. 4-5

4 Be - fore we taste of death, We
5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet
see Thy king - dom come; We long to hold the
we may not re - main; But since Thou bidst us
vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.
leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: **Amen.**



Song of Praise

Great Is The Lord



Great is the Lord, He is ho - ly and just, by His pow - er we trust in His love. _____



Great is the Lord, He is faith - ful and true by His mer - cy He proves He is love. _____



Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry. Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of praise.
Great are You, Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry. Great are You, Lord, and wor - thy of praise.



Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great _____ is the
Great are You, Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:



Lord! _____ Great _____ is the Lord! _____

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The “Pre-Transfiguration” Reading

Matthew 16:21,24-28 (ESV)

²¹Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day

Take Up Your Cross

UMH 415

1. "Take up thy cross," the Sav - ior said, "if thou wouldst
2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak
3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy
4. Take up thy cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

my dis - ci - ple be; de - ny thy - self, the
spir - it with a - larm; his strength shall bear thy
fool - ish pride re - bel; thy Lord for thee the
death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

world for - sake, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
spir - it up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
cross en - dured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

WORDS: Charles W. Everest, 1833 (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24)
MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY
LM

Sermon

"What Kind of Crosses Did

Matthew 16:24-17:8

Peter, James, & John Carry Up the Mountain?"

Confession of Faith from Matthew 11:2-6; 16:13-16

P: When John the Baptist heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

C: **Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”**

P: Jesus asked His disciples, using the title “Son of Man” to speak about Himself, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
And the disciples said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
Then He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?”
And I also ask you, disciples here today, “Who do you say that Jesus is?”

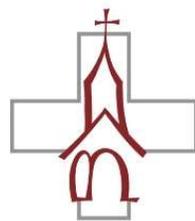
C: **Simon Peter replied, and we also say, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Amen.**

Church Imitating Christ

Based on Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

P: Bethel as a congregation seeks to be a
C: **Church imitating Christ.**
P: We devote ourselves to mercy and compassion,
C: **sharing with one another.**
P: We serve the community with love and grace,
C: **as the hands and feet and mouths of Jesus.**
P: When we devote ourselves to mercy, we are a
C: **Church imitating Christ. Amen.**

Church Imitating Christ
Scripture
Fellowship
Sacraments
Prayer
MERCY
Generosity
Winsomeness



Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory (Based on Matthew 19:28,12:18-21)

LSB 920 sts.2,5; tune: 616

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; King - ship with
 5 We are the Church: Christ bids us show That in His
 Him His ser - vants gain; With Christ the Ser - vant
 Church all na - tions find Their hearth and home where
 - Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
 Christ re - stores True peace, true love to all man- kind.

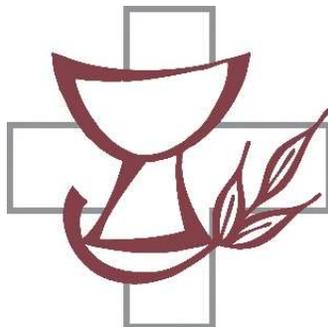
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Prayers

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

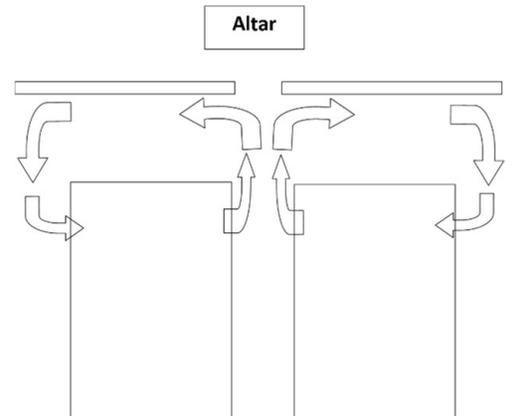
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preface of the Lord's Supper (based on Matthew 21:1-11; 26:2; 3:17; 17:15; 25:34)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: The Lord sent His prophet to say to the people of Zion, Jerusalem,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey.’”

And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people welcomed Him saying:

C: **“Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!”

P: The whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said,

C: **“This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”**

P: But Jesus was not just another one of the prophets,
as God the Father declared at His Baptism:

C: **“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”**

P: And God the Father reminded the disciples again at His Transfiguration:

C: **“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”**

P: Then Jesus reminded the disciples in Jerusalem that “the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” By His crucifixion, and by His Supper, He extends this invitation: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Proper Preface for Matthew

LSB "Apostles and Evangelists"

P: We pray: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Matthew, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (based on Matthew 26:26–29)

LSB 445, st. 1 & 3, alt.

1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
teach - er, faith - ful friend, What great gift that you would
give them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?
"Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me
as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."

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The Lord's Prayer

P: 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.

Words of Institution as in the Gospel of Matthew Matthew 26:17a, 20–21, 26–30

P: ¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread,... ²⁰when it was evening, [Jesus] reclined at table with the twelve [to eat the Passover meal]. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²⁶[Then] Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

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

(We greet one another in peace saying “God’s peace” or “The Lord be with you.”)

Distribution Anthem ***We Gather at Your Table, Lord*** ***Adult Choir***

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

We gather at your table, Lord,
Grant peace and unity;
In keeping with your will and word,
May we one body be.

Now let us take the sacred bread,
Our souls and bodies feed;
In heart and soul we shall be fed,
Your holy will to heed.

Now let us take the wine of heaven,
 For Christ, whose blood was shed;
 That here we meet with sins forgiven,
 And by his grace are led.

To you, O Lord, we sing our song,
 May we be one in love
 For we by faith to you belong,
 One! With your church above!

Distribution Hymn

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

LSB 416



1 Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo-ry, Heav-en's voice, the daz-zling light;
 2 Glimpsed and gone the rev - e - la-tion, They shall gain and keep its truth,
 3 Lord, trans - fig - ure our per-cep-tion With the pur - est light that shines,



Mo-ses and E - li - jah van - ish; Christ a - lone com - mands the height!
 Not by build-ing on the moun-tain An - y shrine or sa - cred booth,
 And re-cast our life's in - ten - tions To the shape of Your de - signs,



Pe-ter, James, and John fall si-lent, Turn - ing from the sum-mit's rise
 But by fol - low - ing the Sav-ior Through the val - ley to the cross
 Till we seek no oth - er glo - ry Than what lies past Cal - v'ry's hill



Down-ward toward the shad-owed val-ley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.
 And by test - ing faith's re - sil-ience Through be - tray - al, pain, and loss.
 And our liv - ing and our dy - ing And our ris - ing by Your will.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1945, Tune: Amanda Husberg, 1940

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Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord....

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer (Based on Matthew 1:22-23; 2:5-6; 3:17; 3:16)

P: Let us pray. Lord, all this has taken place to fulfill what You had spoken by the prophet, “They shall call His Name Immanuel—God with us.” And it was also written, “From Bethlehem... shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.” Jesus came preaching, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” and now we are the people dwelling in darkness who have seen a great light, those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, and on us a light has dawned in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in His body and blood given to us.

C: Amen.

Benediction (Blessing) (Based on Matthew 28:18-20)

P: As Jesus said to His disciples before He ascended into heaven, He says to you, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

C: Amen.

Burning of the Palms

Traditionally the Church has kept last year’s palms from celebrating Palm Sunday, and then burned them on Transfiguration Sunday as enter into Lent. These ashes are then used on Ash Wednesday. Today as we go forth with the last “alleluias” on our lips, we burn a small amount of palm leaves.



Nehemiah 9: 1-2,16-17

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. ² And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

¹⁶ “... our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments.¹⁷ They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.”

Burying "Alleluia"

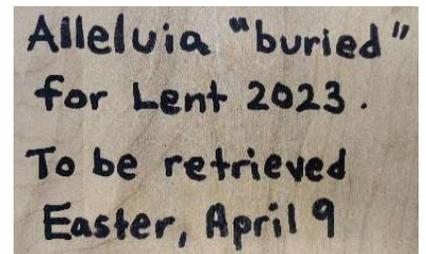
Burying the Alleluia is a custom dating back to at least the fifth century. On the Last Sunday before Lent, a scroll containing the word, "Alleluia"



(Hebrew for "Praise the Lord"/ "Praise Yah(-weh)" was removed from the church. A written record from the 15th century describes French choirboys carrying a small coffin containing the word "Alleluia" out the church in procession, and then burying it in the churchyard. We will sing a farewell hymn to "Alleluia", and then Pastor will "bury" the wooden plank in a hidden pond.

It will remain underwater until he retrieves it at Easter Sunrise during a Facebook Livestream devotion.

(This same pond still holds an Alleluia written in Ukranian which was buried last year to mark the beginning of the war. It will remain there until the war ends).



Closing Hymn

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

LSB 417 sts. 1, 3



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while



can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions



Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of
Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn



God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt., Tune: John Goss, 1800–80

Announcements

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM
IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM
IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM
IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM



CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. USHERS, READERS, AND VARIOUS OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THOSE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG.