



**Transfiguration of Our Lord-March 2, 2025**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

156 W. Washington Street, Strasburg, Virginia

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## **Introduction**

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

# Welcome to Worship!

The order of worship & hymns are found in the ELW (red hymnal).  
The Playground (upfront) is available for children. All are welcome!  
----- Our Services are lived streamed on Facebook -----

## GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, our creator, our wellspring of life.  
Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty and indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;**

**we resist your call to oppose injustice;**

**we give in to scarcity and fear;**

**we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults and release us.**

**Restore our hearts and heal the world, that we may live in Christ's ways.**

**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✙ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen**

GATHERING *Shine, Jesus, Shine* ELW 671

*No download available – use the red hymnal.*

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *First line: choir.*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Holy God, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of Jesus, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-3

<sup>29</sup> Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup> Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup> When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup> but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup> the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.

<sup>12</sup> Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <sup>16</sup> but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into

the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*The assembly stands.*

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

<sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

<sup>37</sup> On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup> Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at

my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup> Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup> I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” <sup>41</sup> Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” <sup>42</sup> While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43a</sup> And all were astounded at the greatness of God.  
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

CHILDREN’S CHOIR *This Little Light of Mine* Traditional African American Spiritual

SERMON

Pastor Chris

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *How Good, Lord, to be Here!* ELW 315



- 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

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## BLESSING OF NEW MEMBERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS OF 2025

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**



We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils (*local leaders may be named*). Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries (*new ministries may be named*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people (*especially John Wesley and Charles Wesley, renewers of the church*). We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

*The assembly is seated.*

MEAL

OFFERING *An offering is given for the mission of the church.*

MUSIC OFFERING *Come to the Mountain by Scott and Kathleen Dunseth  
St. Paul Singers*

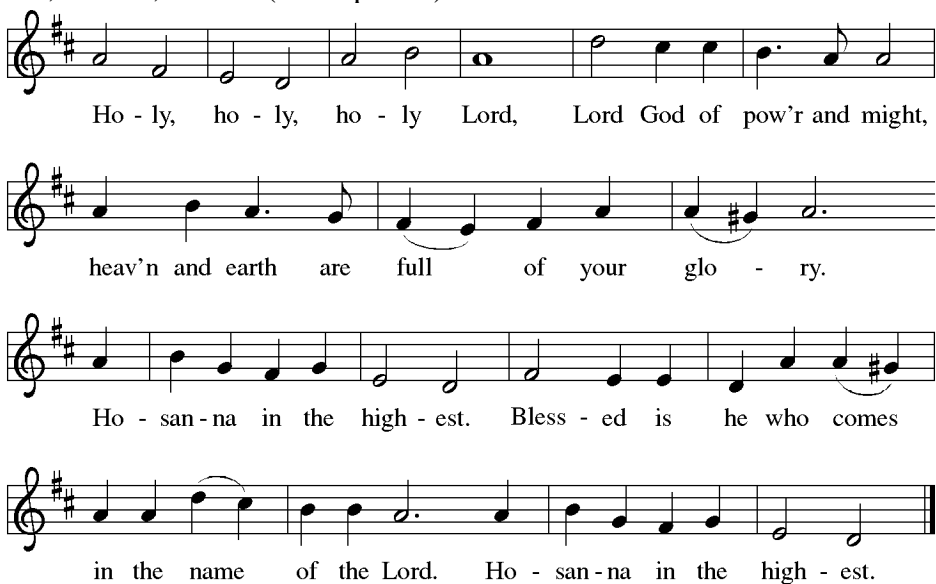
*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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;  
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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## COMMUNION

# COMMUNION HYMN

*Beautiful Savior* ELW 838



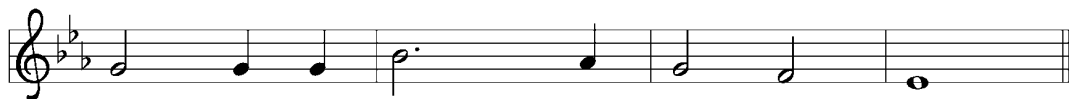
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs and 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.

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.**

**In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

# SENDING

## SENDING SONG *We Are Marching in the Light* ELW 866



*Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -*  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



*nyen' kwen - khos'.* *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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## BENEDICTION

Assistant Minister: As you go on your way, may God go with you.

May God go before you to show you the way;

May God go behind you to encourage you;

Beside you to befriend you;

Above you to watch over you;

And within you to give you peace.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

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## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor: The Reverend Christian Flohr

Organist/Director of Music: Sue Correll

Assisting Minister: Samantha Crisman

Ushers: Paul Fravel & Bill Frenz

Table Steward: Tammy Kibler

Communion Assistant: Linda Williams

Communion Tray: Kennedy Emrich

Steeple Bell Ringer: Bill Carper

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## **TODAY AT ST PAUL**

9:30AM Worship Service with Holy Communion / New Members received / Blessing of  
the Church Council.

10:45am Retirement reception

## **INTERCESSION** *Please keep the following in your prayers:*

Tonya Womble-(Kitty-friend) At home-continued healing

Wendy Pangle Williams-( Friends) Needs a kidney

Dr. Steven Cooksey-(Sue Correll), friend-healing, serious illness

Cindy Britton-(Kitty) knee replacement

Jim Gibson (Susan Bennett, sister): infection

the family of Denny Sonner: his death.

Tony Fox (Kitty, friend): cancer treatments

Hal Whittington (Hattie Golliday, aunt): Praising God that he is off the ventilator and out of Intensive Care. Continued prayers for him and his mother Judy, as he still has kidney and liver complications.

families of the plane crash victims: healing of grief and Air Traffic Controllers

family of Shelby Jordan Coons: her death

Sef Savaato (Sarah Clem): recovery from surgery

Steve Pieper (Wendy, wife): healing and recovery after experiencing a fall

Brittany Polk Henning (Sylvia Polk, grandmother): hospitalized with pregnancy complications

Cindy Jones (Debbie Winkfield): unexpected death of her husband Don

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## **INFORMATION**

- The altar flowers are given by Dyke Family to the glory of God and in memory of our mom/nana Loretta Dyke and in honor of our church secretary Carol Smith for her dedication to St. Paul. Thank you Carol.

- **TODAY:**

- Blessing of New Members: Cindy Wasson and James Massie

- Blessing of New Council Members for 2025: Terry Ryman, Debbie Winkfield, Lynne Carper, Bonnie Giese, Byron Brill, Jalen Doman, and Randy Painter.

- Nursery Update project : --*There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex* for anyone who is willing to help with this project . If you have questions contact Kayce Flohr, April Diehl, Sue Mariotti or Phyllis Larrick. Donations are appreciated as well.

- Coffee Bar volunteers: --*There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex* for anyone who is willing to help.

- The children's choir will sing during worship on Sunday, March 2.

- Life-Long Learners Class (grade 6 and older): “Lutheran Liturgy and Worship: “Why We Do What We Do!” (Clay Arthur). Restarts again Sunday, March 9.

- A Retirement Reception in honor of Carol Smith our Church Secretary will be held today in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Please join us in honoring and celebrating her 26+ years of faithful service to our congregation!

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- **REMINDER:** If you sign up for altar flowers please contact the church office a week in advance of that Sunday (s) with the dedication(s) you want printed in the bulletin.
- AARP Tax Preparation info: See updated info below: Mondays, 8:30am-1pm. Phone number to call to make an appointment: 540-692-3130.
- If you can help supply soup, bread or desserts for one of our Lenten meals (March 12, 26, and April 9), please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.
- **NEW- since the March newsletter went out:**  
 \* **Lenten Lunch Series:** “How God Uses Family Relationship in the Bible”  
 March 13th Methodist Church  
 March 20th Presbyterian Church  
 March 27th Lutheran Church  
 April 3rd Christian Church  
 \* *A light lunch will be provided each week at noon*
- St Paul Courier (monthly newsletter): Copies available in the Narthex.
- Pastor Chris’ sermons : Copies available in the narthex.
- Church Office Business Hours: Tues., Wed. & Thurs., 10am-2pm.

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February 23, 2025

Attendance: 62      Offering: \$2,149

**St Paul QR Codes: Always make sure when you scan QR codes that the link is where you were expecting it to go.....if it isn’t – don’t click on it !!**

**St Paul’s website:**



**St Paul’s Giving/ ‘Breeze’ link:**



## **THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL**

### **Mondays, through April 14:**

8:30am-1pm AARP Tax preparation days at St Paul. *(See February newsletter for more info. -- and the Information Section of this bulletin for updated time and phone number to make appointment.)*

### **Tues, March 4-Shrove Tuesday**

9:30am crafters & card makers / fellowship hall

5:30pm Pancake Supper & Community Meal

### **Wed, March 5-Ash Wednesday**

No Community Meal

6pm St Paul Ringers

7pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes

### **Thurs, March 6**

10-10:45am Gentle Yoga classes (\$5/person/class) / fellowship hall

11-11:30am Chair Yoga (free) / Good Shepherd Rm

**Saturday, March 8:** 8am Community Men's Breakfast at Christian Church (High Street)

### **NEXT Sunday, March 9-First Sunday in Lent**

9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

Wednesday, March 12, 5:00 Blood Pressure Check

5:30 Lenten Meal

6:30 Worship Service

Thursday, March 13-Lenten lunch series begins. \* See more information on previous page.

March 15: Deadline to submit information for April newsletter