

February 19, 2023  
The Transfiguration of our Lord  
Communion

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

All Glory Be to God on High - Paul Manz

WELCOME and GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God,  
we come to the mountaintop to be covered in your presence.  
We are comforted by your holiness and your glow;  
we are comforted by the hope of the mountain top,  
**where you are so close, so accessible,  
where there is no doubt of your glory**

The mountain top reminds us why we worship you.  
**We witness your bright power,  
and your plan for the nations of the earth.**

As we prepare for worship,  
God, bring us to the mountain top;  
**bring us to the mountain top  
so that we may be inspired to do your work  
in the valley below.**

OPENING HYMN ELW 315 How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

**Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

## NICENE CREED

Together with people of times and places, we join together in professing our faith with the words of the 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 OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with those around you, if you are comfortable doing so. Please recognize some folks might prefer to not shake hands as we continue to live with COVID-19.*

#### OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING      Let Your Light Shine - Mary McDonald  
Saint John's choir

#### OFFERTORY ELW 685 Take My Life, That I May Be

Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## OFFERING PRAYER

+ WE FEAST AT GOD'S TABLE +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Our confession pulls from Amanda Gorman's poem *New Day's Lyric*. Her words, interspersed throughout the confession, are in italics.

Let us come before God today, trusting in God's mercy and compassion.

*May this be the day*

*We come together.*

For in this place and in this community, we receive what God knows we need.

*Mourning, we come to mend,*

*Withered, we come to weather,*

*Torn, we come to tend,*

*Battered, we come to better...*

*We steadily vow that no matter*

*How we are weighed down,*

*We must always pave a way forward.*

And that way forward begins with forgiveness, with being made right, with trusting that God has wiped the slate clean, with a fresh start for what stands before us.

*This hope is our door, our portal.*

*Even if we never get back to normal,*

*Someday we can venture beyond it,*

*To leave the known and take the first steps.*

*So let us not return to what was normal,*

*But reach toward what is next.*

*What was cursed, we will cure.*

*What was plagued, we will prove pure.*

*Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,*

*Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,*

*Where we weren't aware, we're now awake;*

*Those moments we missed*

*Are now these moments we make,*

*The moments we meet,*

*And our hearts, once all together beaten,*

*Now all together beat.*

May God's grace surround us as we come to this table,  
in all the places we'll go,  
to all the people we see.

**Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!

WE SHARE THE MEAL CHRIST GAVE US

*Communion will be shared continuously. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. You will receive the bread from the pastor and then be invited to take a pre-filled cup from the tray held by the communion assistant. Wine is in the clear cups and grape juice is in the purple cups. Empty cups can be placed in the bowls at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. All are welcome!*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 838 Beautiful Savior

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's 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.**

+ WE ARE SENT TO SERVE +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

May the Creator who brings light from darkness,  
the Spirit who transfigures our torments,  
and the Christ who lifts up valleys and brings the mountain's glory down to earth,  
make the rough places plain before you and bless you this day and always.

Go forth, sisters. Go forth, brothers. Do not be afraid,  
in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

SENDING HYMN ELW 318 Alleluia, Song of Gladness

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Praise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals - Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*The liturgy for today's worship service was reprinted by permission from Sundays and Seasons.com, copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #45176. The hymns and songs unless otherwise noted, are covered under copyright licenses; CCLI 1490857, OneLicense.net A-709256, or are Public Domain. Copyright 2023. Call to Worship written by General Commission on the Status and Role of Women of the United Methodist Church. <http://www.gcsrw.org/Portals/4/WHM.worship%20March%20202.pdf>. Benediction written by Heidi Neumark, The Abingdon Women's Preaching Annual, Series 2, Year A*

### **Black History Month – Poet of the Week**

Amanda Gorman was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She graduated from Harvard University in 2020. In 2017, Gorman was named the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States. She previously served as the youth poet laureate of Los Angeles, and she is the founder and executive director of One Pen One Page, an organization providing free creative writing programs for underserved youth.



### **PRAYER LIST**

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Brian Allebach, Charles Krupp, David Mounts, Leah Crater, Steve Keyser, Silas Reed, Ruth Jadick, Pat Ernst, Pastor Jennifer Phelps, Paige & Peyton Seasock, Tal Umstead, Sandra Umstead, Donald Moyer and family, Linda Hart, Gladys Ditzler, Judy Ockenlaender and Andrew Renninger.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

Tuesday, Feb 21	7pm Pub Theology 7pm Great Songs of Faith rehearsal 7:30pm Marketing & Comm. Cmte Meeting
Wednesday, Feb 22	4-5:30pm Ashes to Go 5-6:15pm Dinner 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
Saturday, Feb 25	9-4pm Confirmation Prayer Retreat 9-1pm Girl Scout cookie Drive Thru
Sunday, Feb 26	8am Worship (quiet service during Lent) 9am Faith Formation (age 3-Adult) 10:15 Worship

### **Ash Wednesday – February 22**

Our worship this night begins our journey into the season of Lent. To make the experience as accessible as possible for all, please see the schedule below:

**Ashes to Go** – 4:00-5:30 PM – for anyone who can't make it to worship at 6:30 PM – drive through the circle at the front of the church to receive ashes without even getting out of your car.

**Dinner** – 5:00-6:15 PM – a family friendly dinner will be available during this time – let us take care of dinner so you can make it to worship on time.

**Family-Friendly Worship** – 6:30 PM

**Lenten Worship Experiment** During the season of Lent, St. John's will be adding an early morning worship experience to our Sunday mornings. This service will take place at 8 AM, starting February 26 thru Easter Sunday, April 9. It will be a more quiet, reflective style of worship with minimal music - and will be 35-45 minutes in length to allow participation in 9 AM Sunday school.

At the conclusion of the Lenten season, the Worship & Music Team will evaluate participation in this early service during Lent to help determine our fall 2023 worship schedule. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Becky or Erika Haldeman, chair of Worship & Music.

### **Lenten Small Group    Soup and Book Discussion**

**Tuesdays at 5:30 PM, starting February 28 thru April 4**

Join Pastor Becky on the Tuesdays in Lent for soup supper and discussion on the book *The World is About to Turn: Mending a Nation's Broken Faith*. All are welcome.

Books are available for \$10 in the main office.

**Our Mid-week Lenten Worship** this year will zoom in on a question raised by the Sunday reading, inviting participants to make connections between their own stories and the Bible. We will also be resuming our post-worship fellowship this year as well. Worship will begin each Wednesday at 7 PM with fellowship afterwards. The schedule is below:

**March 1: St. Mark's Lutheran – Questions That Divide, Questions That Bind**

March 8: Pennsburg UCC – Simple Questions

March 15: Palm Schwenkfelder – Questions for the Curious

March 22: St. John's Lutheran – Questions That Change, Questions That Change You

March 29: New Goshenhoppen UCC – Questions That Kick

**Lent in the Home** Everyone keeps the season of Lent differently. Some choose to give something up. Others choose to add something in. Resources to guide you in keeping Lent at home will be available in the narthex and parlor from Sunday, Feb 19 thru Sunday, February 26. Please take whatever will help you to keep the season of Lent faithfully when you are apart from this faith community.

**A New Member Small Group** will be starting this winter! If you– or someone you know– is interested in becoming part of the St. John's community, contact Pastor Becky at [pastorbecky74@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbecky74@gmail.com)

### **First Communion Workshop, Saturday, March 18, 9:30-11:30 AM**

Any young person currently in Grades 2-5 who has not received first communion instruction is invited to join Pastor Becky for this two hour workshop. Students who attend the workshop will receive their first communion at Maundy Thursday worship, April 6 at 7:30 PM. A parent/grandparent is required to attend the workshop with each student.

To sign up, visit the link below by Sunday, March 5:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-first3>



**Join us for Adult Sunday School, 9am in the Fellowship Hall.** NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. Join us for fellowship and conversation! All welcome!

**Add Your Voice to the Choir** Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings at 7pm. All are welcome to join—even if you can't be there every week— simply add your voice when you can!!

**St. Patrick's Day Roller Skating Party, Sunday, March 19th, at Ringing Rocks Roller Rink in Pottstown.** See the weekly email to sign up online today.

### **Rise Against Hunger Event**

On Saturday, March 25th, you are invited to join the seven Protestant churches in the Upper Perkiomen Valley in a meal packaging event with Rise Against Hunger, hosted at St. John's.

We've done a few of these events in the past and they are a well-loved service experience, so we encourage folks who haven't done one to give it a try. We've also found that older elementary students thru high school have a great time at these events— youth are welcome to sign up provided that they are with a parent/grandparent/guardian.

Sign up today at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-gwoh>


**Friedens Union Cemetery Assoc.** would just like to remind anyone who has graves in the cemetery that around March 1, weather permitting there will be some volunteers cleaning off the cemetery. If you have Christmas things in the grave yard please remove prior to this. If you wish to volunteer to help with this please call Evey 215-264-6099. If we have enough help it only takes a few hours.

### **Heavenly Helpers**

**Our spring trip is scheduled for April 15-22, 2023 to Waverly, Kentucky.** This will include many rebuild jobs like drywall, spackling, painting. That type of thing. We will be staying at a church as we did last year in Mayfield. We will be having a planning meeting **March 19 at St John's at 12:30** and will be serving Pizza for lunch, The plan for the meeting will be to go over plans and get an idea of how many are interested in going so we know how large of a van we need and if you think you may be able to assist in the driving. I believe there are a few new people who may be joining us so we can also go over what to take, what to expect,--that sort of thing. So, if you think you may be interested in joining us in April or simply want to know more about this ministry, please plan to attend this meeting or talk to me. Elaine 215.262.5366 elaineakeller@comcast.net

**Girl Scout troop 72134 Cookies!** Drive thru and pick up some cookies on Saturday, Feb. 25th from 9-1 here in St. John's parking lot OR you can buy some cookies on Sunday before or after worship from their cookie booth.

### **Blessed to be a Blessing**

**For the month of February**, we will be supporting The Open Link with  donations of canned soup and stew. As the soup and stew congregation in the Upper Perkiomen Valley, we made a commitment years ago to make sure that the food pantry never runs out of soup and stew. As we prepare to celebrate the Super Bowl in the month of February, join us in creating our own Souper Bowl of donations to support Open Link!

## Lenten Prayer Partners

During the season of Lent, we will be offering the opportunity to receive a prayer partner.

A few changes this season include:

-Prayer partners will be randomly selected— sign up online or on the paper outside Pastor Becky's office **by Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd**. (Your prayer partner's name will be emailed to you by the First Sunday in Lent, Feb. 26th.

-Prayer partners will not be secret—this will allow you, if you choose, to contact your prayer partner and receive specific prayer partner requests to offer up. Your prayers can then be more intentional around the needs and concerns of the person for whom you are praying. Contact is not required, but simply optional.



## Easter Flowers Order

Orders are due in the church office by Sunday, March 12th.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Plant Information:

- \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) Daffodils @ \$10.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) Lilies @ \$10.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) Tulips @ \$10.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) Mums @ \$10.00

*Flowers may be picked up after the 10:15am Easter Worship*

Please return this form in an envelope marked **Easter Flower Order** on the outside to the church office or offering plate. Please provide exact cash or checks made payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church".

*Please indicate how you would like the flower donation listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins:*  
**In honor of**

\_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory of**

\_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_