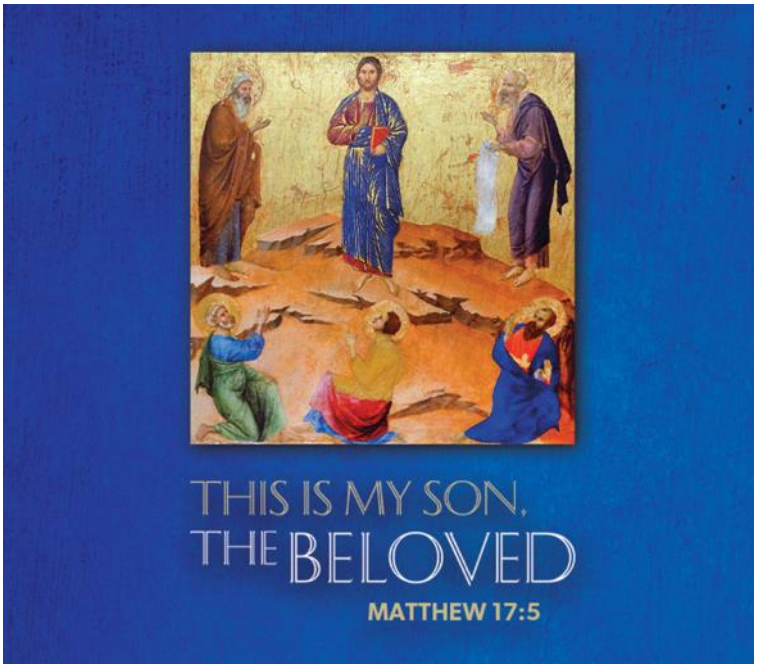

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
February 19, 2023

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993
Web Site: memluth.org
E-mail: office@memluth.org
717-532-4614

Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name

Reverend Michael Allwein
717-532-4614 (church office) or 717-357-3814 (cell)
pastor@memluth.org
Office hours are Wednesday this week

Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith! We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!

Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone, complete the connection card and place it in the offering plate.

INTRODUCTION
Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE *"I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ"* *- Bach*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Kneel as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name.**
Amen.

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Please stand

GATHERING HYMN *"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"* **ELW 318**

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 still 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 always.
And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE *"Glory to God"* **READ TOGETHER**
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray together.
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.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING **Exodus 24:12-18**

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the LORD" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

12 The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait
there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the
commandment, which I have written for their instruction." 13 So Moses
set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain
of God. 14 To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to
you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may
go to them." 15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud
covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai,
and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to
Moses out of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD
was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the
people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the
mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM **Psalm 2** **READ RESPONSIVELY**

1 Why are the nations in an uproar?
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
2 **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together,**
against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?
3 "Let us break their yoke," they say;
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
4 **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;**
the LORD holds them in derision.
5 Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.
6 **"As for me, I have anointed my king**
upon Zion, my holy mountain."
7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.
8 **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance**
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
9 You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
10 **And now, you kings, be wise;**
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

[11]Submit to the LORD with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;
[12]**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.**
Happy are all who take refuge in God!

SECOND READING **2 Peter 1:16-21**

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

[16]For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17]For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." [18]We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. [19]So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. [20]First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, [21]because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia.* This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him! *Alleluia.
(Luke 9:35)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 17th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL **Matthew 17:1-9**

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

[1]Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. [2]And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. [3]Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. [4]Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for

Moses, and one for Elijah." [5]While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" [6]When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. [7]But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." [8]And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. [9]As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Burying the Alleluia)*

SERMON ***"Seeing the God We Never Saw!"***

Please stand

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

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.

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 Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats (*locally threatened waters or lands may be named*). Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor (name) and local leaders, our governor (*name*) and state legislators, our president (*name*) and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERTORY *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"* **Senior Choir**

The Ushers will collect the offering

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Please stand

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Let us pray together.
Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Read Together*
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Lord remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray.
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Come and taste the joy of God!

Please be seated

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION
All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.

Please stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray together.
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

BLESSING
The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"O Christ, Our Hope"* **ELW 604**

O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire, creation's mighty Lord, redeemer of the fallen world, by holy love outpoured, by holy love outpoured:

How vast your mercy to accept the burden of our sin, and bow your head in cruel death to make us clean within, to make us clean within.

But now the bonds of death are burst, the ransom has been paid; you reign above at God's right hand, in robes of light arrayed, in robes of light arrayed.

Oh, let your mighty love prevail to purge us of our pride, that we may stand before your throne by mercy purified, by mercy purified.

All praise to you, ascended Lord; all glory ever be to Father, Son, and Spirit blest through all eternity, through all eternity!

Please be seated

POSTLUDE *"Trumpet Tune"* *- Telemann*

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

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Interim Pastor
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Organist
Nancy Fogelsanger

Senior Choir Director
Brandy Welsh

Bell Choir Director
Kathy Kerr

Parish Coordinator
Amy Piper

Preschool Director
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