



LISTEN TO HIM

Transfiguration

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, NE

February 14, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything, please ask one of our ushers.

Connection cards: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

Organist

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DIVINE SERVICE II

Divine Service II is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.

M In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C *(spoken)* Amen.

Introduction to the hymn.

**Blessed Jesus, at your Word
We are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love you solely.**

M Oh, how I love your law!

C I meditate on it all day long.

M Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

C for they are ever with me.

M I have more insight than all my teachers,

C for I meditate on your statutes.

M How sweet are your words to my taste,

C sweeter than honey to my mouth!

(Psalm 119:97-99,103)

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.**

M All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

C **so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**
(2 Timothy 3:16,17)

M Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light from Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your people raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

M God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (*John 20:31*). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C **(spoken) Amen.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing your praises yonder.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Word

FIRST LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-12a

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah was traveling with Elisha from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

³The sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?"

Then he said, "Yes, I know. Be quiet."

⁴Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here because the LORD has sent me to Jericho."

But he said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

⁵Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?"

He said, "Yes, I know. Be quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan."

But he said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

⁷Then fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood and watched them from a distance, while the two of them were standing at the Jordan. ⁸Elijah took his

cloak, folded it together, and struck the water. The water divided to the right and to the left. Then the two of them crossed on dry land.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask me for whatever I can do for you before I am taken from you."

Then Elisha said, "Let there be a double portion of your spirit on me."

¹⁰He said, "You have asked for a difficult thing. If you see me being taken from you, it will surely be yours. But if not, then it will not."

¹¹While they were walking and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire came and separated them. So Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹²Elisha was watching and crying out, "My father! My father! Israel's chariot and its charioteers!" Then he did not see him anymore. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

How Good, Lord, to Be Here | **95 v. 1-2**

1 How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.

2 How good, Lord, to be here
Your beauty to behold,
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Your messengers of old

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing. ⁴In the case of those people, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from clearly seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is God's image.

⁵Indeed, we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," is the same one who made light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. A voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him."
Alleluia.

HYMN

How Good, Lord, to Be Here | **95 v. 3**

3 Fulfiller of the past,
Promise of things to be,
We hail your body glorified
And our redemption see.

GOSPEL¹

Mark 9:2-9

please stand, if able

M The Gospel according to Mark chapter 9.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

²After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain where they were alone by themselves. There he was transfigured in front of them. ³His clothes became radiant, dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them. ⁴And Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

⁵Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say because they were terrified.

⁷A cloud appeared and overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him."

⁸Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (EHV)

¹ *The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.*

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Down from the Mount of Glory | 97

1 Down from the mount of glory Came Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Recall the wondrous story, Rich gem in sacred Word.
Again your faith will view him In double glory here;
The greater homage due him Will in your life appear.

2 Transfigured, Christ, the lowly, Stood radiant in the light,
Light found in Godhead solely, For human eyes too bright.
Then came a voice from heaven, Confirmed what here we see;
The words "my Son" were given To seal his deity.

3 Yet mark this glory hidden! See him the mount descend
And, by the Father bidden, His willing footsteps bend
To seek humiliation In deepest depths of woe,
To suffer degradation No mind can probe or know.

4 Strange how his journey ended! In love that is his fame
Our Lord again ascended A mount—the hill of shame.
Upon the cross he proffered Himself to agony;
His holy soul he offered To set the guilty free.

5 Then hail the double glory Of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
And let the wondrous story Full peace and joy afford!
The holy mount acclaims him The majesty divine;
Mount Calvary proclaims him Redeemer—yours and mine

SERMON

please stand, if able.

NICENE CREED

**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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

be seated

OFFERING: *Please place your offering in the plate in the entry.*

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money
in keeping with his income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[M] O Lord, you have revealed your good and gracious will to your people on earth. Forgive us for pursuing that knowledge that serves only our selfish desires and for using what we have learned to exploit and hurt others. Cleanse our guilty hearts of the apathy we feel for searching out the deeper truths of your Word.

C Holy Spirit, hear our prayer that we may put self aside and rejoice in the truth that builds up.

M Heavenly Father, send the Spirit of Jesus into our hearts so that like the Bereans of old we eagerly learn of you. As the deer pants for streams of water, may we be instilled with a longing to explore the mysteries of your grace.

C Holy Spirit, increase in us the knowledge of your truth.

M As you sent your Son among us as the Word made flesh, so bless the efforts of schools, colleges, and seminaries to train those who proclaim your presence among us in Word and sacrament.

C Holy Spirit, instill in us a desire to teach others the wisdom of your ways.

M God of light, give to the Church renewed wisdom and fresh understanding that the message of your salvation may shine ever brighter in this dark age.

C Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love so that others may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth so that at the name of Jesus every knee may bow.

C May your peace, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The Sacrament

Those who have prepared themselves and who have declared their fellowship with us through membership in this or another WELS or ELS congregation are invited to receive the Lord's Supper.

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who at his transfiguration revealed his glory to his disciples that they might be strengthened to proclaim his cross and resurrection and with all the faithful look forward to the glory of life everlasting. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Tune | 78

**O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus took bread and gave thanks [Matthew 26:26]

M Blessed are you, Lord God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Your Word brought all things into being, and your Word will call all things to an end. We thank you, heavenly Father, that in mercy you sent your Son to redeem us. We remember, O Lord, with thanksgiving the saving work of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Renew us that we may joyfully serve you in your kingdom of grace now and in your kingdom of glory forever.

Now hear us as we pray in his name and as he has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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 ²

Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD³

John 1:29

² As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death

³ In, with and under the bread and wine we behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace | **288**

- 1 The gospel shows the Father's grace, Who sent his Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died That we might thus be justified.
- 2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes, Who made the atoning sacrifice
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed To come and find eternal rest.
- 3 It brings the Savior's righteousness To robe our souls in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release And gives the troubled conscience peace.
- 4 It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith which firmly clings To all the treasures which it brings.

5 It bears to all the tidings glad And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers And banishes their guilty fears.

6 May we in faith its message learn Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

SONG OF SIMEON (Luke 2:29-32)

Tune | 93

please stand

**O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever three in one;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C Amen.

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather in this house of worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, the Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word "alleluia," which means, "praise the Lord."

So now, for a time, we say, "Farewell to Alleluia." We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The alleluias will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord. May we use this quiet season to reflect on our sins and long for the rising of your Son in glory.

HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Triumph | **Tune: CWS 753**

Alleluia, song of triumph, sound of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;
Saints adorned in robes of glory join the great angelic cry.

Alleluia we are singing, voicing hymns in pure accord,
With Christ's holy Church united, justified, redeemed, restored,
And with all his faithful people raise our songs to praise the Lord.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forego.
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.

May our hymns be filled with longing—hear us, Holy Trinity—
As we look to your blest Easter, here, and then eternally,
When we shall once more be singing alleluia joyfully!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 Worship with communion

Church Council Meets

6:00 PM Bethel/Grace/NELHS leadership meeting

Wednesday: 6:30 PM Lenten Worship

Sunday: 10:30 Worship

Midweek Lenten Worship starts this week Wednesday at 6:30 PM. No fellowship or snacks due to COVID. Our Theme this year is "Hands of the Passion". Pastors from the Blue River Circuit will take part in a preaching rotation.

Bethel and Grace leaders are invited to a meeting at NELHS at 6 PM tonight to discuss different scenarios that could benefit all three entities and the greater church. Thanks to all who stayed for the open forum last Sunday. Your thoughts and comments have been communicated and will be shared again tonight.

The Church council meets today after church. One topic will need to be a discussion of the continued dip in offerings over the last month or so and the increasing negative balance. Paul says, "In view of God's mercy, offer yourselves to God." When we put him first he promises to provide all we need.



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethelyork



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 32, Facebook live 9, Engagements 20, Audio/Slides 20. Offerings: For operating expenses, Given 340.15, Needed 2,858.27, NELHS 100.00. **To God be the glory!**