

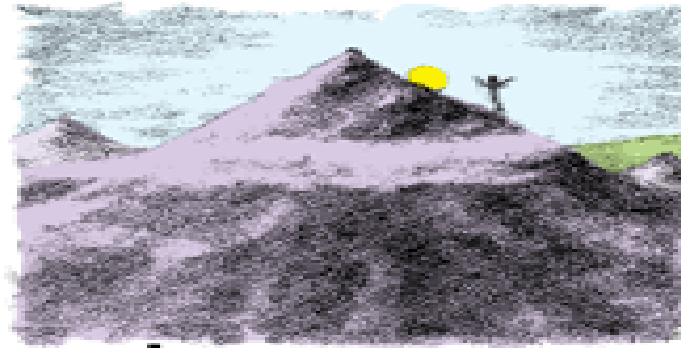


**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**
share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. William J. Sappenfield, *Interim Pastor*
Organist: Jean McHenry—Saturday
Organist: Sherise David -Sunday
Saturday & Sunday

February 18 & 19, 2023

Transfiguration of Our Lord



**This is my
Son...
Listen to Him.**

Matthew 17:5

Next weekend's readings:

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5: 12-19

Matthew 4: 1-11

Visit our webpage, www.stpaulg.org, and click "**Live Worship**" to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can choose to watch live or listen only. You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. William J. Sappenfield, Interim Pastor

Cell: 512-825-0842 Email: wsappenfield@att.net

Pastor Office Hours Mon.-Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PO Box 567 / 110 W. Walnut Street, La Grange, Texas 78945

Parish Office: 979-968-5657 Fellowship Hall: 979-968-9603

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 2 - 5 p.m.

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Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship! All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to participate with appropriate elements.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, www.stpaullg.org. It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.

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.

GATHER

Prelude

Announcements

Invocation *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#834

Greeting

P: 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.**

Kyrie *page 138*

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Canticle of Praise *pages 139-140*

P: 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

Prayer of the Day

P: 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

The 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.

¹²The 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." ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To 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."

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The 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. ¹⁷Now 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. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 2

¹Why 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.**

⁵Then 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."**

⁷Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have 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.**

⁹You 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.**

¹¹Submit 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!

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

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.

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For 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." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So 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. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation *ELW 142*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The 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.

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John 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 dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then 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." ⁵While 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!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As 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.**

Children's Word

Sermon

Hymn

How Good, Lord, To Be Here!

#315

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 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.

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. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our local leaders, our governor and state legislators, and our president 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. 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.

The Sharing of the Peace

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

Offering *The offering plates will be passed.*

The offering plates will be passed.

Offering Song *ELW 186*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offering Prayer

P: God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving *ELW 144*

P: 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.**

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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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 Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

In 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.

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion

All are welcome to the Lord's table. White grape juice is in the center of the tray of cups. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. You may also remain in your pew and use a prepackaged kit.

Prayer after Communion

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Beautiful Savior

#838

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THIS Weekend:

5:00 pm **USHERS:** John D. & Kay Marburger
LECTOR: John D. Marburger
ALTAR GUILD: Jackie Skelton
9:00 am **USHERS:** Rhonda Koether/Bonnie Sladek
LECTOR: Praise Band
ALTAR GUILD: Ashleigh Parks
FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS: Open
FLOWERS: Open

Ash Wednesday Evening Service: 2/22

ALTAR GUILD: Gloria Raschke/Ginger Muesse

NEXT Weekend: 2/25 & 2/26

5:00 pm **USHERS:** Richard & Danette Coufal
LECTOR: Chloe Coufal
ALTAR GUILD: Faye Bresan
9:00 am **USHERS:** Gerald & JoLene Hughes
LECTOR: Frank Tekyl
ALTAR GUILD: Janet Coronado
FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS : OPEN
FLOWERS: Open

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm Worship
SUNDAY: 9:00 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School
MONDAY: 9:00 am Quilters
TUESDAY: 8:30 am Tacky Tuesday
6:00 pm Church Council
WEDNESDAY: NO REHEARSALS for Bells,
Choir or Praise Band
6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
LYO after Church Service
WEDNESDAY: 3:00 pm
MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SATURDAY: 5:00 pm Worship
SUNDAY: 9:00 am Worship

WELCOME—please welcome retired Pastor Charles Parnell from the Brenham area who is filling in this weekend while Pastor Bill is on Medical Leave. Pastor Parnell will also be leading the service on Ash Wednesday and also next weekend (2/25 & 2/26).

TACKY TUESDAY—is Tuesday, 2/21 beginning at 8:30 am. A potluck lunch is shared by all around 11:45 with a main dish being provided.

CHURCH COUNCIL—is Tuesday, 2/21 at 6 pm in the Friendship Room.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES—are Wednesday, 2/22 at 6pm. There will be no morning services or meal this year as St. Paul will be participating in a rotating pulpit program with area Lutheran churches.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—is Wednesday, 2/22 at 3:00 pm. If you have information or articles for the March Newsletter please call (968-5657) or email (stpaul@cvctx.com) the Church Office. Any information received after this date is not guaranteed to be printed in the newsletter.