

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

February 13 and 14, 2021

5 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. Sunday



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

The God Who Makes the Two, One

AS WE GATHER (*Based on Ephesians 3:1-13*)

"I've Got a Secret" was the name of a popular TV show that ran from 1952 - 1967. The show was revived in 1972 and new episodes were created until 2006. The "hook" of the show was watching celebrity guests try to determine a contestant's "secret": something that was unusual, amazing, embarrassing or humorous about that person.

The amazing story of God's grace revealed bit by bit throughout history was a "secret" so locked in God's own heart that "even angels longed to look into it." Paul doesn't refer to it as a "secret" but as a "mystery," now revealed. By definition, "mystery" is an enigma almost impossible to comprehend or explain. By now, we've become so used to this mysterious revelation that it might seem ordinary. But in Paul's time, writing to the people in Ephesus, this "mystery" was mind-blowing: God not only had a chosen people - the Israelites - but He had plans from the beginning of time to incorporate everyone, including non-Jews, into His promise of salvation for those who believe. Even further, His plan was to mold these two different groups into one Body, His Church, "sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."

Hints of this plan were given throughout the Old Testament, all the way back to Abraham in Genesis 12 when he was told that "ALL NATIONS would be blessed through him" - because of his descendant, the Messiah. Paul calls this mystery the "unsearchable riches of Christ...the manifold wisdom of God...His eternal purpose." The mind-blowing and loving mystery is that "In Him and through faith in Him we [all of us] may approach God with freedom and confidence."

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Prelude

“Fanfare and Procession”

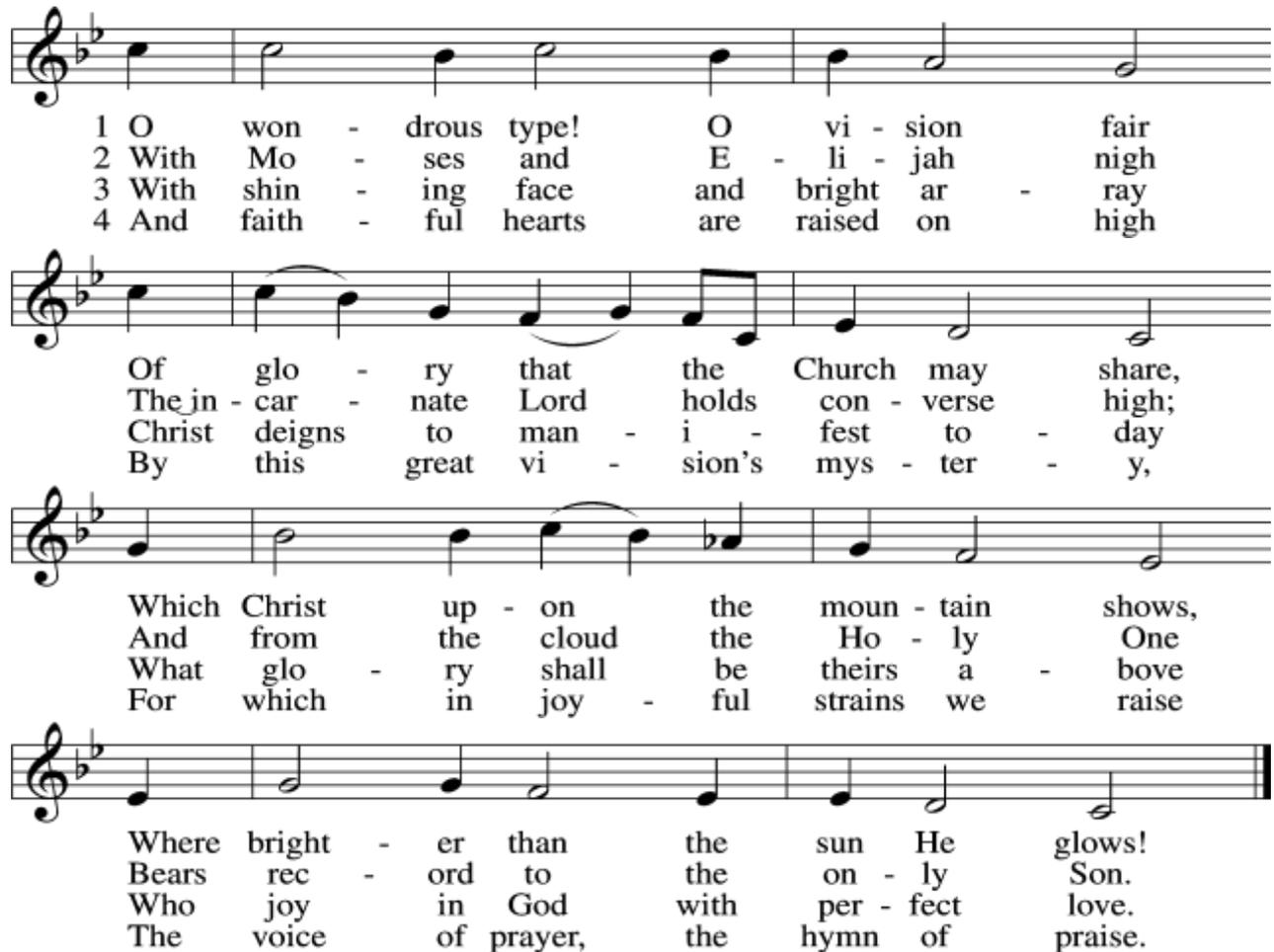
Jeffrey Blersch
Linda Olsen, Organist

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair”
Verses 1-4

LSB 413



1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray
4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high

Of glo - ry that the Church may share,
The in - car - nate Lord holds con - verse high;
Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day
By this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,

Which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,
And from the cloud the Ho - ly One
What glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove
For which in joy - ful strains we raise

Where bright - er than the sun He glows!
Bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.
Who joy in God with per - fect love.
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

Tune and text: Public domain

Invocation

Confession of Sins

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Absolution

✘ WORD ✘

Spoken Kyrie (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

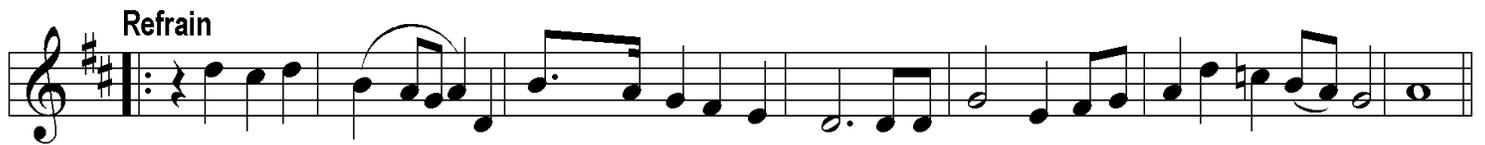
Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“This is the Feast”

(Setting One-On this Transfiguration Sunday we sing this hymn of praise celebrating the glory and majesty of Christ.)



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength,
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-13

(God revealed at last a mystery hidden for millennia: Through Christ both Jews and Gentiles are heirs of salvation and made into one Body.)

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

(Jesus is transfigured on a high mountaintop.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st Chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them

except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

"Church of God, Elect and Glorious"

LSB 646

Verses 1-3, 5



1 Church of God, elect and glorious, Ho - ly
2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
His most mar - v'lous light; Brought His truth to
to God's heart of love; But He brought you



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -



grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
bove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh
Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.

Sermon "The God Who Makes the Two, One"

Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Ephesians 3:1-13

Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Offering Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.

☩ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ☩

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

☩ SACRAMENT ☩

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

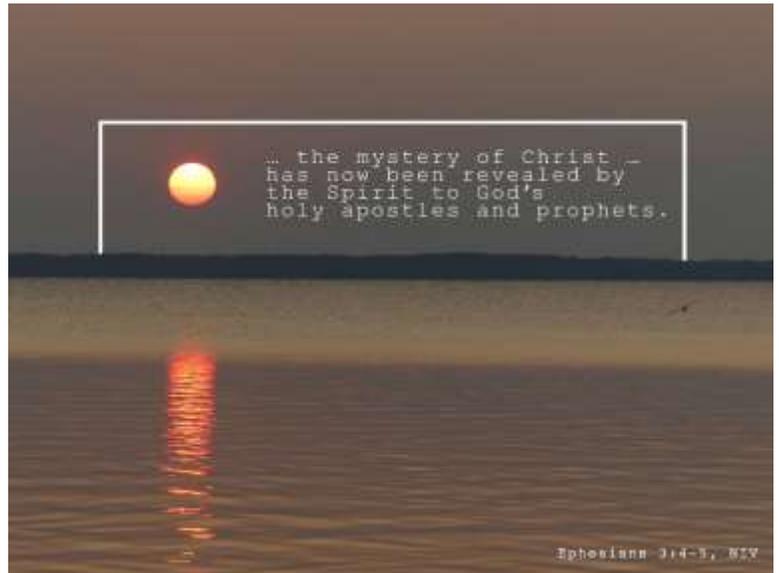
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

People: 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.



DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds " (Verses 1-3, 5)

LSB 649



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Public domain

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds " (Organ)

David Angerman

General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they
 Δ 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er
 to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
 With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter
 Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
 one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

Tune and text: Public domain

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"
(and Row by Row Dismissal)

Paul Manz

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson
 Michael Zehnder