

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

February 14, 2021

10:30 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."

Gathering Song

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Miller-Jackson

Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

My Life Is in You, Lord

Gardner

My life is in You, Lord, My strength is in You, Lord,
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.
My life is in You, Lord, My strength is in You, Lord,
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.

I will praise You with all of my life,
I will praise You with all of my strength;
With all of my life, with all of my strength,
All of my hope is in You.

My life is in You, Lord, My strength is in You, Lord,
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.
My life is in You, Lord, My strength is in You, Lord,
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You, in You.

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 ✠

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.

Children's Message

Christa Kirschner

Song of the Day

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

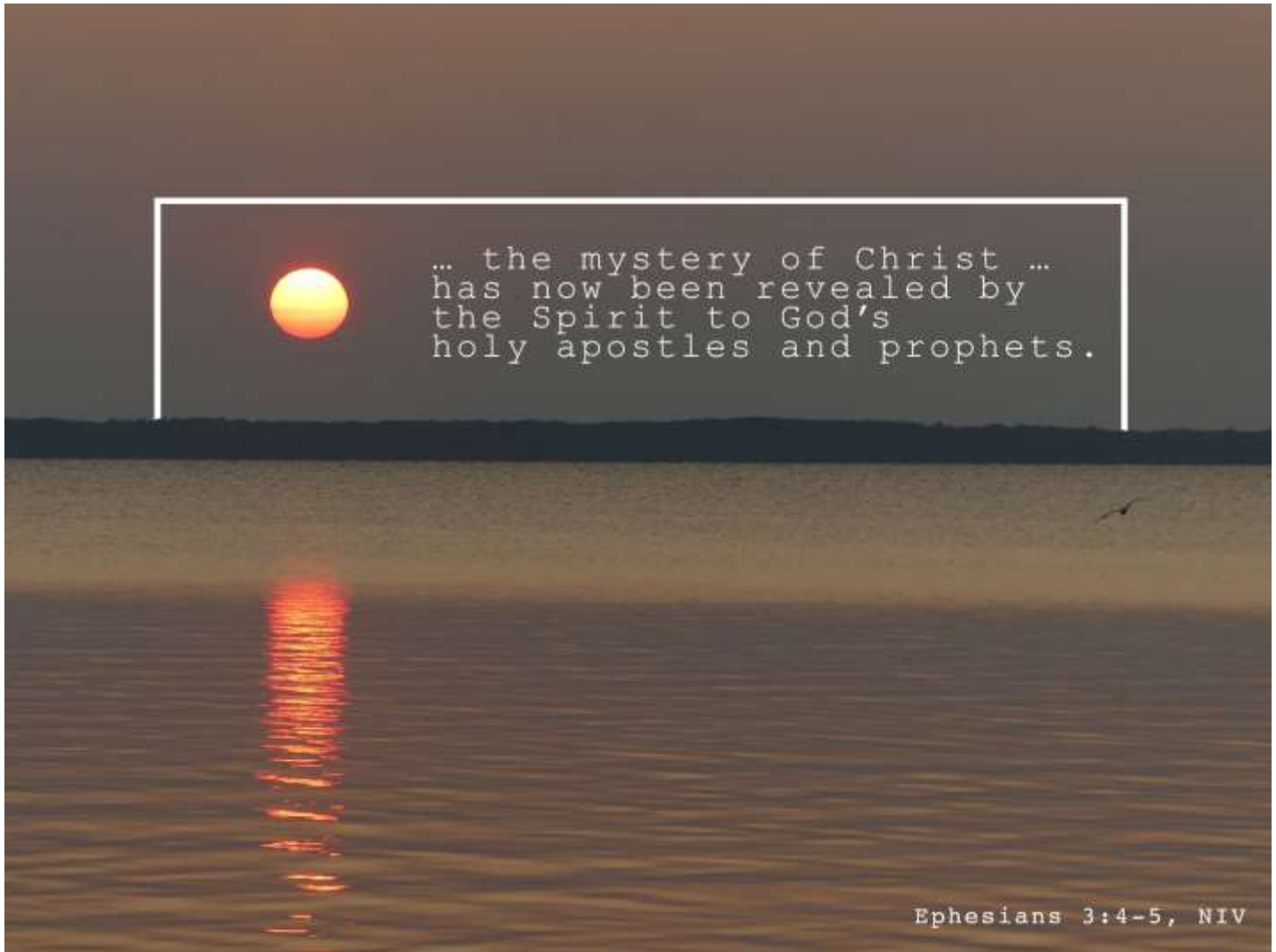
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity May one day be restored

**CHORUS: And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, By our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians
By our love**

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news That God is in our land **CHORUS**

We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity And save each man's pride **CHORUS**

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one **CHORUS**



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

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Bind Us Together

WOV 748

**CHORUS: Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together, Lord;
Bind us together with love.**

There is only one God, There is only one King;
There is only one Body, That is why we can sing: **CHORUS**

You are the family of God, You are the promise divine;
You are God's chosen desire, You are the glorious new wine. **CHORUS**

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.

Closing Song

Living Stones

Michael A. Schmid

Jesus Christ is our Cornerstone
He's the Rock He's the Solid Foundation
We are building on Jesus alone Building up as the people of God

Each of us is a living stone
Precious stones in the building of Jesus
In this house we don't stand all alone We are one we're the people of God

**CHORUS: Living stones...We are living
Living stones...Built on Christ
Living stones...Holy people of God
Building on the firm foundation of Christ (Repeat Chorus)**

Jesus You are our Cornerstone
You're the Rock You're the Solid Foundation
We are building on Your love alone Build us up as the people of God

Each of us is a living stone
We're alive in the love of Jesus
We are trusting in Jesus alone
We are His We're the people of God **CHORUS**



ALIVE IN HIM ALIVE IN HIM ALIVE IN HIM ALIVE IN HIM
LIVING STONES

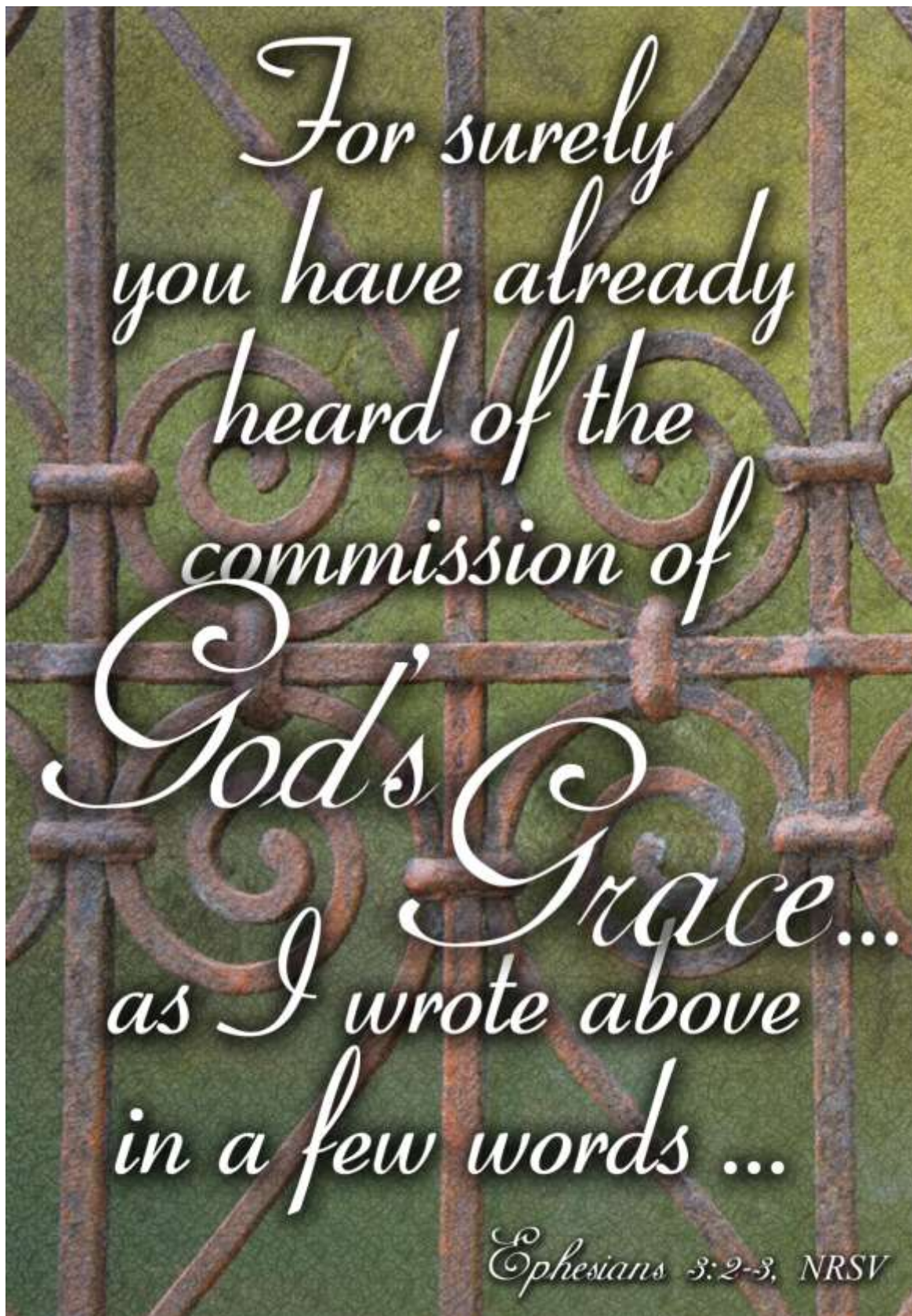
Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(and Row by Row Dismissal)



For surely
you have already
heard of the
commission of
God's Grace...
as I wrote above
in a few words ...

Ephesians 3:2-3, NRSV

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
PRAISE TEAM

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Agape Praise Team