

# Transfiguration of Our Lord

## Holy Communion

9:00 a.m., February 11, 2024



### Welcome to worship this morning!

If you are new to the congregation, please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship, or take a break in our “Kid’s Korner” within the Gathering Space where the service audio is played through speakers. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall, past the church office. **Hymns** are printed in the red book (ELW) available in the pew rack.

All who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome; you may also come forward to receive a blessing. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation to kneel at the altar rail. The pastor will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into the red wine, or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please **do not sip** from the chalices at this time. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or the pastor can deliver the sacrament to you.

**PRELUDE:** *Gott des Himmels und der Erden*

Johann Gottfried Walther

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
I invite you to kneel or remain standing.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: *Shine, Jesus, Shine***

**ELW 671**

## **GREETING**

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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into  
our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your  
image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**  
*The congregation may be seated.*

## **FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12**

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

A reading from second Kings:

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

A reading from Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians:

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9**

*Mark’s gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus’ followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God’s glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW 815

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May church leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for any who are sick and suffering. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. Bless our children, confirmation, and youth ministries. May our congregation be a place where young Christians are welcomed and supported and nourished in their life with God. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Bless us as we enter into the season of Lent. Inspire us all to Lenten disciplines that enrich our spiritual journey and our relationship with You. As we do this, keep us ever mindful of your grace and unconditional love for us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*For what else shall we pray...*

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*At this time, ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online on our website ([stmatthewavon.org](http://stmatthewavon.org)), or mailed to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!*

## OFFERTORY: *Jubilate Deo*

Dale Wood

O sing to the Lord with a jubilant voice.  
Glory to God in the highest!  
O serve him with gladness, before him rejoice.  
Praise to the Lord in the highest!  
The Lord is our God, our Creator, not we.  
Glory to God in the highest!  
The sheep of his pasture we ever shall be.  
Praise to the Lord in the highest!

O enter his gates with thanksgiving and praise.  
Glory to God in the highest!  
To honor his name thankful voices we raise.  
Praise to the Lord in the highest!  
For good is the Lord, and his mercy is sure.  
Glory to God in the highest!  
To all generations his truth shall endure.  
Glory to God! Glory to God!  
Praise to the Lord in the highest!

Jubilate Deo, Dale Wood © 1971, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.

## PRESENTATION HYMN: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW 184

*All rise as the gifts are brought forward.*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,  
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
and gather us at your table of celebration.  
Strengthen us to share with all the world  
the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**



## HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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;  
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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
**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**

*At this time, ushers will direct the congregation to approach the altar where you may kneel or stand. You will receive a communion wafer from the pastor, which you are invited to intinct (dip) into the red wine or white grape juice held by the communion assistant. Please do not sip from the chalices. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or the pastor will deliver the sacrament to your seat.*

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

### **THE DISTRIBUTION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **COMMUNION HYMN: *Beautiful Savior***

**ELW 838**

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## NUNC DIMITTIS



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the  
sight of ev - ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## BENEDICTION

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.  
May he go before you to show you the way,  
Behind you to encourage you,  
Beside you to befriend,  
Above you to watch over,  
And within you to give you peace. †  
**Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

ELW 318

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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**Today's Altar Flowers are provided for the glory of God!**

**Please join us following worship for coffee and refreshments!**

### **INTERGENERATIONAL VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT**

Following worship today, members of all ages at St. Matthew are invited to the Hall of the Evangelists to make Valentine's Day cards for members of St. Matthew who are away or cannot make it to church any longer. We'll also learn a little bit about St. Valentine - the namesake of Valentine's Day! We hope to send as many cards as we can! Many hands make light - and fun - work!

### **MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Ushers:** Kevin Reichler & Ernie Jaschinski

**Acolyte:** Mia Mehler

**Lector:** Anne Fenn

**Assisting Minister & Communion Assistant:** Will Abbott

**Live Stream:** George Spoering

**Altar Guild:** Kris Pearson & Deb Brodeur

### **STAFF**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok – [pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org)

**Director of Music:** Sarah Schiener-Redenz – [music@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:music@stmatthewavon.org)

**Director of Christian Education:** Ryan Heckman – [education@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:education@stmatthewavon.org)

**Office Administrator:** Paul Martin – [office@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:office@stmatthewavon.org) or (860) 673-3301

**Sexton:** Roy Zurell – contact the office

### **VISIT US ONLINE**

**Website:** [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org)

**YouTube:** @StMatthewAvon

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch)

**Instagram:** @stmatthewlutheranavon

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	9:00 pm: Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion	10:20 – 11:15 am: Intergenerational Valentine’s Day Event		5:00 pm: Confirmation Class
Tuesday	10:00 am: A.A.	7:00 pm: Avon Land Trust		7:00 pm: Finance Committee Mtg.
Wednesday	4:30 - 5:30 pm: Drive-thru Ashes	6:00 pm: Ash Wednesday Service	9:30 am & 5:15 pm: W.W	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	10:00 am: Bible Study		2:00 pm: Centering Prayer	
Saturday	8:30 am: Men’s Breakfast			
Sunday	9:00 a.m.: Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion	10:20 - 11:15 am: Sunday School & Adult Forum		5:00 pm: Confirmation Class

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LENTEN SCHEDULE

#### Ash Wednesday

4:30 - 5:30 pm: Drive-thru Ashes in the SMLC Parking Lot  
6:00 pm: Ash Wednesday Service

#### Thursdays in Lent

6:00 pm: Midweek Holden Evening Prayer  
6:45 pm: Lenten Education

### 2024 YOUTH GATHERING DEPOSIT DUE TODAY

All Youth Gathering Registration forms and \$150 deposit are due to St. Matthew TODAY. Checks can be made out to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Adult registration forms are also due this Sunday with \$150 deposits.

Please see Ryan following worship to deliver your deposit, or ask any questions.

## **SAVE THE DATE! Music at Greenwood**

Saturday, March 9th, 4:00 p.m.

Pianist Paul Bisaccia will provide the exciting debut of our 2024 concert series on Saturday, March 9th, at 4:00 p.m.! As a special homage to all of his “great great musical grandfathers,” Paul will play a one-hour concert of music by Beethoven, Haydn, Czerny and Liszt. Included will be Beethoven’s celebrated “Waldstein” Sonata and some Gershwin songs for an additional flair. After the concert, please stay for a reception of light appetizers. An offering will be received at the door (suggested donation: \$10 per person). We hope to see you there!

## **2024 ALTAR FLOWERS**

Our 2024 Altar Flower chart is now hanging outside the Sanctuary. If you wish to dedicate Altar Flowers throughout the year, please secure your date by either writing your name and dedication on the chart, or emailing the office. The cost is still \$40.00.

## **COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY: NEW SIGN-UP SHEET**

Thank you to all who generously provide refreshments for Coffee Hour!

The sign-up sheet for March and April are now available! Please continue this important ministry by signing up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space

### **St. Matthew Mission Statement:**

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.*

***In Christ, We Are Digging Deep, Reaching Out, Changing Lives.***