



From the River to the Mountain

February 11, 2024

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Tim Denney | Office Phone (218) 722-4364 | Cell (517) 392-8494 | www.dulutheran.org

WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here this morning or watching online, we are happy you have joined us today.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience this morning easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Each service includes a children's message which teaches God's truth to your kids. Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This **Wednesday, February 14th**, we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday worship at **7:00 PM**. In this special service, there is a focus on repentance as we solemnly reflect on our sins and seek the forgiveness that is ours through Jesus Christ. Please join us on Ash Wednesday and our Midweek Lent services as we follow Christ's journey to the cross.

WELS Annual Report: Each year the WELS puts together an Annual Report for its congregations. This report provides members a summary of the schools, financials, ministries, and missions within the WELS. You can find an online version of the Annual Report here: synodadmin.welsrc.net/download-synodadmin/official-synod-reports/?wpdmdl=3263&refresh=65c3d7cac107e1707333578&ind=1704906585852&filename=WELS-AnnualReport-2024-web.pdf

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Cribbage League will start on **2/13/2024**. There is a sign up sheet posted outside of Pastor's office or you can email Peter Moeri, peterpmoeri@gmail.com. Please sign up by **2/11/2024**.

Mark your calendars for **family game night!** Everyone is welcome to join us **Friday, February 23** from 6pm-8pm in the fellowship hall at church to play games, have snacks and enjoy fellowship together! Feel free to bring your favorite games from home and a snack to share if you wish. Any questions, please speak to Peter Moeri or Kiersten Nash.

Women's Bible Study: Please save the date of **Tuesday, Feb 27th at 6:00 PM** to kick off Women's Bible Study again. We will plan to meet every 4th Tuesday of the month. Stay tuned for more information.

Kickoff for the **Senior/Retirees Fellowship!** Please join us for lunch and fellowship on **Tuesday, March 12th** at the Social House (located behind Gordy's on Highway 53). We will gather in the back room at 11:30 am. We will plan for future get-togethers, so please bring your ideas and preferences. Let me know if you will be able to join us by texting 51-332-1374 or email - kathyhedin@aol.com.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to redeem his people.

C: **Glory to God in the highest and peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

P: There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.

C: **Lord, it is good for us to be here!**

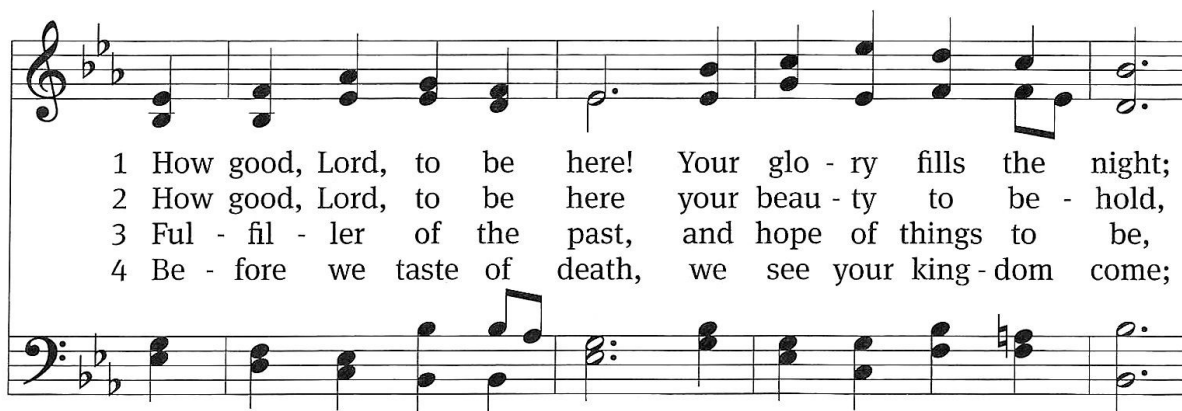
P: He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

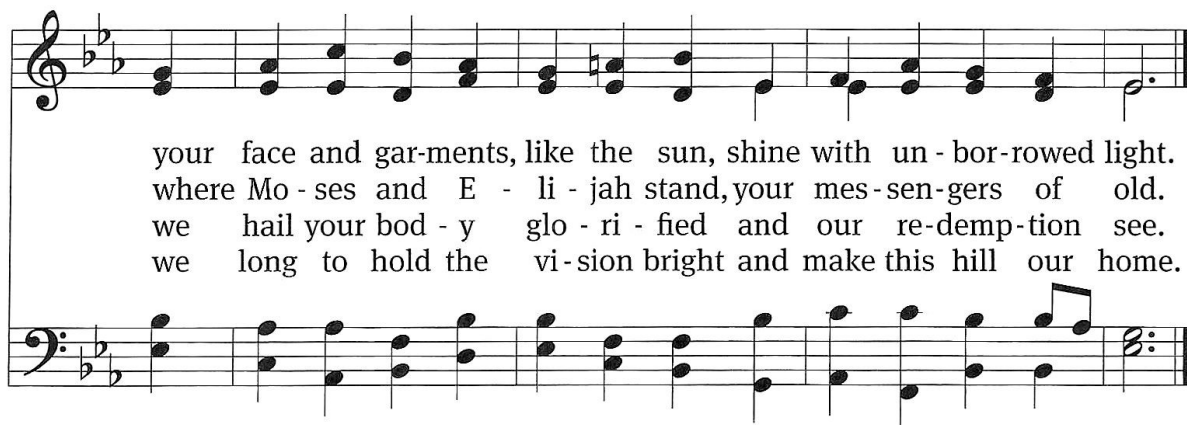
OPENING HYMN

"How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

New Hymnal



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here your beau - ty to be - hold,
3 Ful - fil - ler of the past, and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.

5 But you, Lord, do not stay.
With mercy resolute
you leave this glorious hill to die—
our perfect substitute.

6 How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.

CONFESSION OF SIN & GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

- P: Brothers and sisters in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
- C: **I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to you that we are by nature sinful and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C: **O most merciful God, who has given your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and your will, and lead us in true obedience to your Word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life.**
- P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives all our sins. To those who believe on his name he gives the power to become children of God and promised them his Holy Spirit. Grant this Lord, to us all.
- C: **Amen.**

RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS

“Oh, Taste and See”
p. 39 in front of Hymnal

Sing after a brief introduction...

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal;
It stands firm in the heav-ens.
Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: 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.**

FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "but do not speak of it." ⁴ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

⁵ The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "but do not speak of it." ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

⁷ Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸ Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. ¹⁰ "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not." ¹¹ As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 148

pg. 121 in front of the Hymnal



Praise the LORD from the heavens,*
praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,*
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,*
praise him, all you shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,*
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,*
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,*
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,*
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. "A voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him." Alleluia.
(Mark 9:7)

C: **These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that by believing we may have life in his name.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

(THE APOSTLES' CREED)

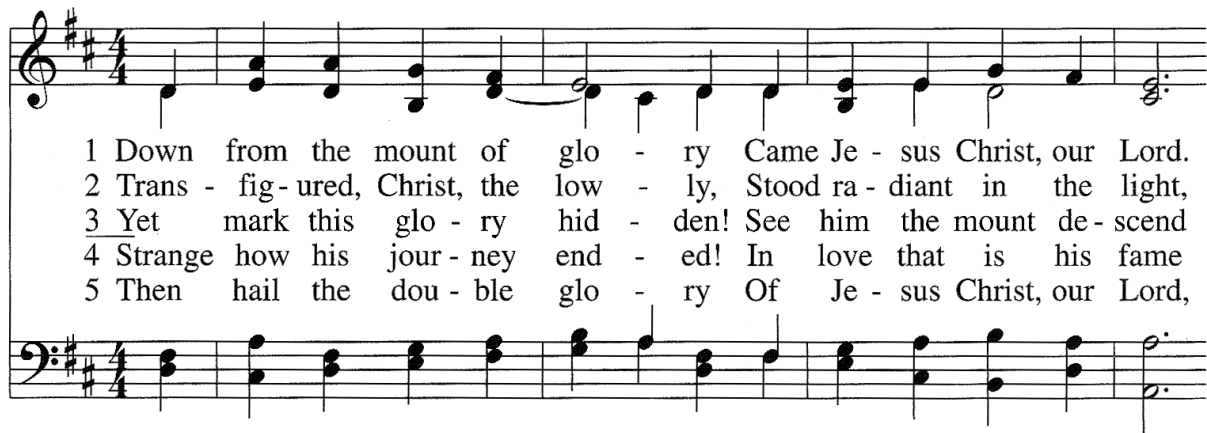
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

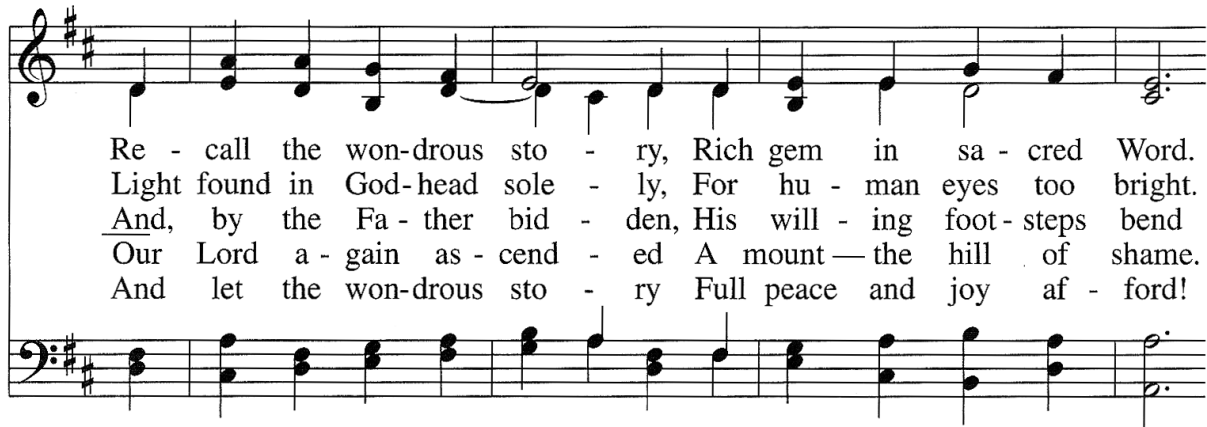
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

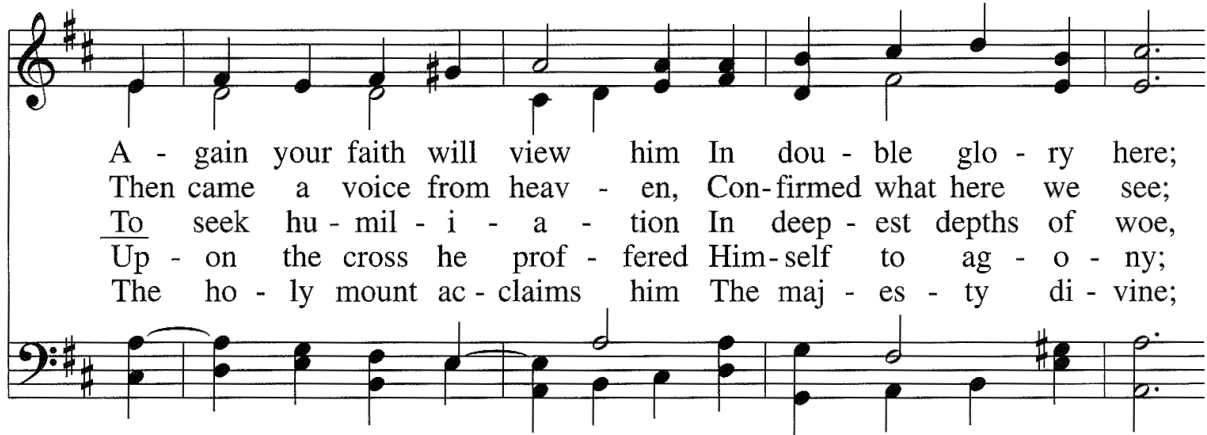
Children in attendance today may come up to the altar steps and sit for a special devotion with Pastor Denney. This service segment is intended to be more interactive and engage the children to help them understand today's message. They will return to their seats afterward.



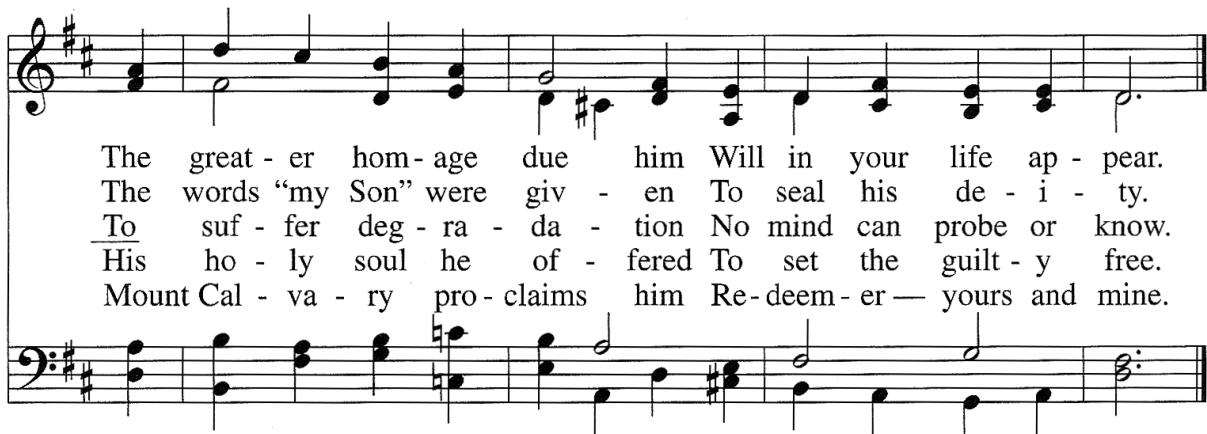
1 Down from the mount of glo - ry Came Je - sus Christ, our Lord.
 2 Trans - fig - ured, Christ, the low - ly, Stood ra - diant in the light,
 3 Yet mark this glo - ry hid - den! See him the mount de - scend
 4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that is his fame
 5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry Of Je - sus Christ, our Lord,



Re - call the won - drous sto - ry, Rich gem in sa - cred Word.
 Light found in God - head sole - ly, For hu - man eyes too bright.
 And, by the Fa - ther bid - den, His will - ing foot - steps bend
 Our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed A mount — the hill of shame.
 And let the won - drous sto - ry Full peace and joy af - ford!



A - gain your faith will view him In dou - ble glo - ry here;
 Then came a voice from heav - en, Con - firmed what here we see;
 To seek hu - mil - i - a - tion In deep - est depths of woe,
 Up - on the cross he prof - ered Him - self to ag - o - ny;
 The ho - ly mount ac - claims him The maj - es - ty di - vine;



The great - er hom - age due him Will in your life ap - pear.
 The words "my Son" were giv - en To seal his de - i - ty.
 To suf - fer deg - ra - da - tion No mind can probe or know.
 His ho - ly soul he of - fered To set the guilt - y free.
 Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er — yours and mine.

✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

FROM THE RIVER TO THE MOUNTAIN

“A Glimpse of Glory”

Mark 9:2-10

² 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. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ 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.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

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

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant.

MESSAGE NOTES

#1 The Transfiguration shows us the _____ of Jesus Christ.

⇒ Mark 9:2-9; John 14:6; John 1:14; 2 Peter 1:16-17

⇒ People have a number of opinions and assumptions about who Jesus really is.

⇒ At his transfiguration, Jesus reveals his true nature and confirms that he is the Savior.

#2 A glimpse that can leave us _____ for Jesus’ _____ to be here today.

⇒ Mark 9:2-9; Exodus 33:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:14

⇒ Peter offers to build three shelters, because he doesn’t want this experience to end.

⇒ When we are facing trouble and difficulty, we may feel like Jesus’ glory is missing.

#3 This moment points us _____ to the _____ glory that will come.

⇒ Mark 9:2-9; Luke 9:30-31; 2 Corinthians 4:17

⇒ Jesus leaves the mountain because the work of salvation is not yet complete.

⇒ The Transfiguration foreshadows the future that will be ours with Jesus for eternity.

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS

Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, visit our website: www.dulutheran.org and click on the "Give" tab.

† PRAYERS †

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P: Glorious Father, on the Mount of Transfiguration you spoke from the cloud, calling us to listen to your Son. Open our ears to hear his Word and give us faith to believe it. Preserve us in your Church, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets.
- C: **Give us the resolve to listen to your Son, the eager readiness to believe his promises, and the joyful willingness to heed his commands.**
- P: Lord Jesus, through you we have the full rights of children of God. What love the Father has lavished has lavished on us through our relationship with you. We praise you for saving us and giving your life as a ransom for our sin.
- C: **Let your Spirit transform our lives into the radiance of goodness, purity, and righteousness.**
- P: Lord Jesus, you made Peter, James, and John eyewitnesses of your majesty. Equip us to boldly proclaim your salvation to those in darkness. By your power make us a great cloud of witnesses who cannot help but speak about what we have seen and heard.
- C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- P: Suffering Savior, even at your Transfiguration you focused on your departure at Jerusalem. As we prepare to watch you carry your cross, strengthen us to carry our crosses. When we suffer, help us focus on you alone so that the devil may not have a foothold, and we may not despair.
- C: **For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.**
- P: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.
- A moment for personal prayer and reflection.*
- P: God of all grace, you have called us to your eternal glory in Christ. Make us strong, firm, and steadfast.
- C: **To you be the glory now and forever! Amen.**

Continued on the next page.

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.

HYMN

"Amazing Grace" CW 379

F C7 Dm F

1 A - maz - ing grace — how sweet the sound — That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

Dm F C7 Am C F

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

Bb F C Dm F C7 F

now am found, Was blind but now I see.
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: 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.

CLOSING HYMN

"Jesus Take Us to the Mountain"
Printed on the back page.

CLOSING HYMN

"Jesus Take Us to the Mountain"

1 Je - sus, take us to the moun - tain, where, with Pe - ter,
 2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com -
 3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis -
 4 Take us to that oth - er moun - tain where we see you
 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -

James, and John, we are daz - zled by your glo - ry,
 pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there
 ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en
 glo - ri - fied, where you shout - ed "It is fin - ished!"
 cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,

light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us
 fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like
 says of the In - car - nate Word, "Lis - ten, lis - ten,
 where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -
 all that we have seen and heard; say with Pe - ter,

for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
 ours you go, matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
 ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."
 tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
 James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"