

# A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE



The Transfiguration Of Our Lord  
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church  
365 W. Grand Ave Laramie, WY  
February 26, 2017



# WELCOME TO LIVING SHEPHERD!

## A FEW NOTES BEFORE WORSHIP

- *We're so glad you joined us for worship today!*
- *Restrooms are located on your right and on your left immediately after you walk through the double doors next to the fire place.*
- *We love having children in our worship service! However, if your child becomes restless, the café (first door on the left past the restrooms) is a great place to regroup and grab a cup of coffee.*
- *You are our guest! If there is something else we can help you with, please let any one of us know!*
- *Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this service folder. Lord's blessings on your worship!*

## TODAY'S SERVICE

*Mountaintop experiences are awesome. Whether it's a hike to the top of a real mountain, a personal achievement you've been chasing for years, the celebration of someone else's success, a long-awaited team victory, or the realization of some life altering truth, they're life changing. For Peter, James and John a certain mountaintop experience changed their lives forever. Today, we join them on that mountain to ponder Jesus' glory and the Word that shows it to us!*

## A PRAYER BEFORE WE BEGIN

*Lord, in love you gave me your perfect Word. Lead me to see the importance of your Word in my life. Through your Word, lead me to see my own imperfection, but also lead me to see your perfect love for me. Bless my worship this morning! In Jesus name I pray. Amen.*

# OPENING HYMN

## HYMN 95 — HOW GOOD, LORD TO BE HERE



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry  
2 How good, Lord, to be here Your beau - ty  
3 Ful - fill - er of the past, Prom - ise of  
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We see your  
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may



fills the night; Your face and gar - ments, like  
to be - hold, Where Mo - ses and E - li -  
things to be, We hail your bod - y glo -  
king - dom come; We long to hold the vi -  
not re - main; But since you bid us leave



the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
jah stand, Your mes - sen - gers of old.  
ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.  
sion bright And make this hill our home.  
the mount, Come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.  
Tune: POTSDAM (SM) J. S. Bach, 1685–1750, adapt.



## INVOCATION

*The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross  
remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

**P:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C:** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## ABSOLUTION

*The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to  
forgive the sins of penitent sinners." For further information see: John 20:21-23.  
Also see Luther's Small Catechism, "The Use of the Keys and Confession."*

**P:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

## 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.

## GOD'S WORD

*EXODUS 24:12, 15-18*

*The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction."*

*<sup>15</sup> When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, <sup>16</sup> and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. <sup>17</sup> To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. <sup>18</sup> Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.*

*PSALM 110 (printed on the next page)*

# Psalm 110

## *Refrain*



Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia! Praise and glo-ry to



Christ the King! Al - le - lu - ia!

## *Psalm Tone*



The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”  
The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion;  
you will rule in the midst of your enemies.

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:  
“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”  
The LORD is at your right hand;  
he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

## *Refrain*

He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead  
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.  
He will drink from a brook beside the way;  
therefore he will lift up his head.

**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*

MATTHEW 17:1-9

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.<sup>2</sup> There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.<sup>3</sup> Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

<sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

<sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.<sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”<sup>8</sup> When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”



# HYMN OF THE DAY

## HYMN 97 — DOWN FROM THE MOUNT OF GLORY

(The children may come forward during verse 3 for the children's devotion)



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



Christ, our Lord. Re - call the won - drous sto - ry,  
 in the light, Light found in God - head sole - ly,  
 mount de - scend And, by the Fa - ther bid - den,  
 is his fame Our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed  
 Christ, our Lord, And let the won - drous sto - ry



Rich gem in sa - cred Word. A - gain your faith will  
 For hu - man eyes too bright. Then came a voice from  
 His will - ing foot - steps bend To seek hu - mil - i -  
 A mount—the hill of shame. Up - on the cross he  
 Full peace and joy af - ford! The ho - ly mount ac -



view him In dou - ble glo - ry here; The great - er  
 heav - en, Con - firmed what here we see; The words "my  
 a - tion In deep - est depths of woe, To suf - fer  
 prof - ered Him - self to ag - o - ny; His ho - ly  
 claims him The maj - es - ty di - vine; Mount Cal - va -



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

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–96. © 1968 Werner H. Franzmann. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: ICH FREU MICH IN DEM HERREN (76 76 D) Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635.

# GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

2 PETER 1:16-21

A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE

*We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For 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." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

*<sup>19</sup> And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*



# CONFESSION OF FAITH

- P: Living in a world where people believe that the universe was formed through chance and accident, what do you believe?
- C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
- P: Living in a world where people are confronted with the guilt and punishment of sin, what do you believe Jesus did for you?
- C: **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.**
- P: Living in a world where people are without hope and certainty, what do you believe?
- C: **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.**

## OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, the people of Living Shepherd  
offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks  
to him. To those visiting, you are our guests.  
While your gifts are welcome, please  
do not feel obligated to give.*

## WORSHIP REGISTERS

*Thanks for visiting us today! We'd love to have a record of your visit!  
Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*We pray on behalf of this church as well as on behalf of  
God's people throughout our nation and the world.*

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

**C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

P: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

P: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

P: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

***Special prayers and intercessions may follow***

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

***Silent prayer***

P: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear us and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare. For it was your only Son who taught us to pray:

C: **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.**

## BLESSING

*The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.*

*The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them],  
and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].*

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

*HYMN 712 — JESUS, TAKE US TO THE MOUNTAIN*

*(Printed on pages 14)*

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*Living Shepherd Logo by Rachel Westra — Westra Design*

## 712

## 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 - 'ry - one; This is my be - lov - ed Son!"  
 tu - ri - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"  
 James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

*The hymn writer reminds us that the glimpse of glory seen in Jesus' transfiguration foreshadows the ultimate glory of Christ displayed at Calvary, hidden under the cross.*

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: SILVER SPRING (87 87 77) Carl Schalk, b. 1929 © 1991 Carl Schalk. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



## **WELCOME!**

We welcome everyone here today and thank you for joining us for Worship! We hope that you will join us again soon.

## **TREATS FROM SWEETS BAKERY AND COFFEE!**

We hope you can stick around after worship to join us for some treats from Sweets Bakery and some freshly brewed coffee!

## **PLAN FOR MIDWEEK WORSHIP DURING LENT**

Starting on Ash Wednesday (This week! March 1st!), we'll have worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Worship will be held on Wednesday evenings for 6 weeks, concluding on April 5th. The first two weeks and the 4th week are set. Thanks for signing up! We'd like to have 4 families signed up to bring soup each week. Look for a sign-up sheet in the café!

## **BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES THIS WEEK**

After worship we'll continue an interactive Bible Study through the Gospel of John. This study will run through April 9th (Palm Sunday). Children are welcome to join us for the video of John's Gospel and then will move to the café for Sunday school. Plan to join us!

Pastor Pete Zaferos

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*Call or Text Anytime!!*

