



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 11 2024

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Maevis Shock; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter Puhl, Eason Kelbel, Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach, Luke Krueger and children throughout the world.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care.

In Jesus name I pray.

Amen

*The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.*

*\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

### Announcements

#### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another**

**and sinned against you.**



## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

Pastor Karen will be leading a first communion class for those in 3rd grade as well as any children who are older but didn't have the class. As with Christmas program practice, the class will begin at 8:00 AM on the following Sundays: March 3, 10, 17, and 24th. The students will then take communion on Easter Sunday, March 31. Please direct any questions to Pastor Karen.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS RETREAT**

The La Crosse Area Synod is sponsoring an opportunity for council members, old and new, to gather with others in our Synod on Saturday, February 17, 9:00 AM—12:00, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in West Salem. Join other congregational council leaders in the La Crosse Area Synod for a morning of learning, networking, idea sharing, and worship. Please let Pastor Karen know if you plan to attend. The cost to St. Paul's is \$25.00, regardless of the number of council members in attendance.

## **Lenten Mid-Week Services**

We'd like to try something a little different this year. Soup & sandwich from 5:00—5:50 PM and then service at 6:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for those who would like to plan, prepare, and serve the meal.

## **Bishop Malpica**

Pastor Sparling will be installed on Sunday, February 25, with Bishop Malpica presiding. A suggestion, and a good one, is to have a pot-luck dinner after service in celebration of the installation, as well as an opportunity to visit with and get to know Bishop Malpica. For now, a sign-up sheet is provided for salads and desserts.

## **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **First Reading**

*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 2 Kings 2:1-12**

<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.**

### **Psalm 50:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it  
with sacrifice.”

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
for it is God<sup>l</sup> who is judge.**

### **Second Reading**

*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 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

<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

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene, Babbitt, Aidden Tilly, Laurie Switz Johnson, Erin Laperle, Michelle Klinger, Chuck Luxton

### **CALENDAR**

Sun., Feb. 11	Council	11:15 AM
Wed., Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday	7:00 PM
Sat., Feb. 17	Council Retreat	
Sun., Feb. 18	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Children Sing & Noisy Offering	Sunday
Sun., Feb. 25	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Installation of Pastor Sparling by Bishop Malpika	
	Pot-Luck Following Worship	

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SOUP & SANDWICH SUNDAY**

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, here in Wilton, will be serving a variety of soups, chili, sandwiches, homemade pies, bars, and beverages TODAY, 11:00 AM—1:00 PM. You’ll have plenty of time before the Letdown Bowl! On a high note, the Clydesdale horses are back.

### **CARD SHOWER**

Wayne Schindler will be turning **90** on February 12! Wayne recently moved to the Touch of Home assisted living facility in Tomah. Take time to send him a card at 1211 Mark Ave., Tomah, WI 54660. Send one even if it might arrive a day or two late.

Distribution

**Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.**

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

**\*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.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

\*Benediction

\*Hymn

**"Beautiful Savior"**

**ELW #838**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. You are God's Beloved.

C: **Thanks be to God..**

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Karen Sparling; Pianist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Karen Arzt

**IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton, Allen Roscovious, Eason Kelbel, Sr.

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

"Alleluia"

**ELW p. 188**

**GOSPEL READING**

**The holy gospel according to Mark 8:27-29**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Reverend Karen Sparling

\*Hymn

**"He Lives"**

**Insert**

**\*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** (God of grace, receive our prayer.)

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.

**OFFERING**

**\*Offertory Hymn** "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

We give thee but thine own, what-e're the gift may be;  
All that we have I thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord from thee.

May we thy boun-ties thus, as stewards true re-ceive,  
And glad-ly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Please join together in the Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek

and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.

### **Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

ELW p. 190

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**

ELW p. 190

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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**

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