



*Worship Folder for February 14, 2021*

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

[www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)

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# Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

*Information to help you stay connected and get involved!*

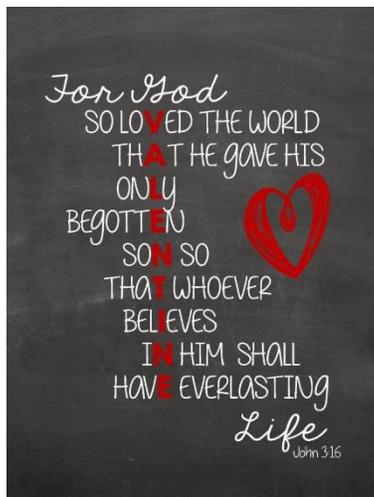
## CHURCH INFORMATION

<b>Pastor</b>	Sam Biebert	<b>Church Office</b>	763.689.5333
<b>Contact Information</b>	ChristCambridgePastor@gmail.com 701.471.0341 (cell)	<b>Webpage</b>	www.christcambridge.com

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | FEBRUARY 14 – FEBRUARY 21

<b>TODAY</b>	9:00am	Worship
<b>MONDAY</b>	President's Day – No Preschool	
	6:00pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom - <i>Wherever Love May Lead</i> )
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6:30pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**New Church Directory!** Don't forget to sign up for your photography sitting! Photos will be taken **Tuesday, March 9** and **Wednesday, March 10**. Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory. We hope everyone will participate so we can have a complete church directory.

**Sunday School** Did you know there are packets available for your children? Until we are able to hold Sunday School again in person, please make sure to grab a packet and make use of it for your home study!

**Women's Bible Study** Join us via Zoom on Mondays at 6:00pm, as we work through the study *Wherever Love May Lead*. Contact Cliss Loescher with questions.

## Take a PEEK at next WEEK!

**"Here am I. Send me!"**

Isaiah 6:8

**Ushers:** Brian Klawiter, Austin Merrifield & Paul Sorgert

**Counters:** Brian Klawiter, Paul Sorgert

**Cleaners:** Paul & Joella Sorgert & Shawn & Sarah Motl



## Worship this Lenten Season

Wednesday, February 17 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 24 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 3 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 10 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 17 @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 24 @ 6:30pm

Maundy Thursday – March 31

Good Friday – April 1

EASTER SUNDAY – April 4

## **MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS**

**Opening Hymn:** “How Good, Lord, to Be Here” (Christian Worship #95)

*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)*  
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:  
**God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,  
**We lie and do not live by the truth.**

If we claim to be without sin,  
**We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

### **Confession of Sin**

**Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.**

*Silence for personal examination and confession.*

### **Absolution**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Elijah was one of those who came down from heaven to speak with Jesus for the encouragement of Peter, James and John. It may be difficult to preach on the ascension of Elijah on Transfiguration Sunday. The chief reason for putting this lesson on this Sunday might be to instruct us about who it is that Jesus spoke with on the holy mountain. Elijah is the greatest preacher of repentance and Moses the greatest teacher of the Law; Jesus is the one who comes to win forgiveness for the penitent who have transgressed the law and are therefore sinners.*

### **First Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1-12a**

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah was traveling with Elisha from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.<sup>3</sup> The sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?" Then he said, "Yes, I know. Be quiet."<sup>4</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here because the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.<sup>5</sup> Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?" He said, "Yes, I know. Be quiet."<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.<sup>7</sup> Then fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood and watched them from a distance, while the two of them were standing at the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Elijah took his cloak, folded it together, and struck the water. The water divided to the right and to the left. Then the two of them crossed on dry land.<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask me for whatever I can do for you before I am taken from you." Then Elisha said, "Let there be a double portion of your spirit on me."<sup>10</sup> He said, "You have asked for a difficult thing. If you see me being taken from you, it will surely be yours. But if not, then it will not."<sup>11</sup> While they were walking and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire came and separated them. So Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. <sup>12</sup> Elisha was watching and crying out, "My father! My father! Israel's chariot and its charioteers!"

*In Christ's Transfiguration we see the difference between the law and the gospel, between Moses and Jesus neatly summarized. The law apart from Christ is never clear and never reaches its goal. Those looking only on the law cannot pierce the veil which hides God's primary (though not his only) intention with the law, namely to kill us, to drive us to despair, to bring us to a desperate cry for mercy. Instead those looking only at the law and not piercing its veil vainly imagine that they can keep it. Ah, but Christ comes and removes the veil; the law in his hands does indeed kill and drive to despair. But most importantly the veil is torn away from the heart of God himself in the person of Christ. On the Mountain of Transfiguration he is not veiled like Moses. In the perfect union of his divine and human natures the glorified Christ comes in lowliness to touch the disciples and take them down the mountain to the valley of his Passion. There they will see the unveiled glory of the gospel on the cross! And from the cross they will be liberated from the shackles of sin and death and hell; they will even come to share in the glory of the Savior who by his Passion takes away the slavery of sin and the ugliness of death. We will not be ashamed to preach this unveiled Christ whose lowly Word still unveils the heart of God and frees us, transforming us from sinners to saints!*

## **Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, since we have this kind of hope, we act with great boldness. <sup>13</sup>We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the Israelites could not continue to look at the end of the radiance, as it was fading away. <sup>14</sup>In spite of this, their minds were hardened. Yes, up to the present day, the same veil remains when the Old Testament is read. It has not been removed because it is taken away only in Christ. <sup>15</sup>Instead, to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup>But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>But all of us who reflect the Lord's glory with an unveiled face are being transformed into his own image, from one degree of glory to another. This too is from the Lord, who is the Spirit. Therefore, since we have this ministry as a result of the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged. <sup>2</sup>On the contrary, we have renounced shameful, underhanded methods. We do not operate in a deceitful way, and we do not distort the word of God. Instead, by proclaiming the truth clearly, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

### **VERSE OF THE DAY**

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

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9**

<sup>2</sup>After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain where they were alone by themselves. There he was transfigured in front of them. <sup>3</sup>His clothes became radiant, dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say because they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>A cloud appeared and overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him."<sup>8</sup>Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus alone. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## **"What A Mighty God We Serve"**

## Sermon on Mark 9:2-9

### Theme: "Listen to Him"

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children' Message](#)

Theme: "Listen to Him"

February 14, 2021

Listening. You do an awful lot of that each day. It starts off by listening to your alarm clock or your children telling you to wake up. Then it goes on in listening to the coffee pot brewing, breakfast conversation, radio on the way to work or tv as you catch up with the news. You listen to music, a podcast, an audio book. You listen to problems new to the day or proposed solutions to old ones, you listen as you hear the familiar wavelengths in your schedule until you come home and hear the sounds of your children telling you about their day, expressing the joys or frustrations until all is quiet once more and maybe you have time to listen to your favorite show or series you are watching before you drift off into the quiet of sleep ready to listen all over again the next day.

But those are just the things you hear, the things you are focusing on. There are so many other sounds to the day, sounds that we just tune out. There are the sounds of the road under our tires, the sound of the furnace kicking in, the sounds of the wind outside the windows, the sounds of birds singing their daily tune, the sounds of co-workers, the sounds of life bustling right alongside of us. And sometimes, you maybe choose to drown out the sounds you normally hear and take in all those other background sounds in your listening.

My point is listening can be a complicated thing, or at the very least, knowing what to listen too can be a complicated thing. The graphic up on the screen is an example of a sound wave and it can help remind us just how complex sound is, just how complex the seemingly simple task of hearing is that the sounds you hear travel through air and your brain is able to make sense of those wavelengths and comprehend the world around it.

So why all this talk about listening? Because something amazing is going on the mountain of transfiguration in our lesson this morning. There, we have Jesus taking three disciples up the mountain, there we have his presence changing right before the disciples eyes as he radiates and shines like the sun. There we have Moses and Elijah joining him and taking part in a celestial conversation here on earth. There, we have the disciples trying to process all of this and knowing something absolutely fantastic is going on, something so wonderful that they don't want to leave, while at the very same time they are found in true terror of what is going on. There, we see the Father in heaven lets his voice be heard, audible direction is given from within the gates of heaven itself. And what is that direction? May we hear it as God speaks to us once more from his word found in Mark 9:

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain where they were alone by themselves. There he was transfigured in front of them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became radiant, dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say because they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> A cloud appeared and overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him." <sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no

longer saw anyone with them except Jesus alone. <sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Listen. Listen to him. In grand, splendid display, this day went from a weary trudge up a mountain, maybe even being a little jealous of those who didn't have to go up with Jesus, to perhaps the most visually climactic experience of Jesus life on earth. There was so much to see and take in. There was the realization of complete inadequacy while at the same time a pure desire to remain in this moment, to let it last. But in a moment already filled with terror, a cloud now covers them, so thick that it blots out even the glory of Jesus in his transfiguration, most certainly adding to the terror. And a voice, a voice that rises above even the chaos of terror because of its power and authority commands their attention. "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him." And then quite.

Imagine what that sound wave would have looked like. Perhaps even the glory of Jesus being audible because of its brilliance. And then it is all done, all gone. Quite returns on the heels of that perfectly authoritative command to listen to Jesus and as their eyes open who do they see but regular old non-transfigured Jesus, and Jesus alone.

There is so much to think about here. It has been said that one could preach this text every year and never be finished with it and that is so true. We have a buzz of activity on that mountain top. Surrounding all of this is the fact Jesus is coming down this mountain to march into the opposite of what he experienced on it. We see how the perfect glory of God that is only seen and not explained creates terror. We see Moses and Elijah, two great proclaimers of law and gospel, ones who pointed nations to the coming Christ, have come to speak with Christ of his passion and no doubt his resurrection as well, looking at it all from the unique vantage point of the eternity they already enjoy. It is a whirlwind of activity and can leave us chasing this and that without focus. It can be a little like the soundwaves of life. What do we focus on? What is the most important take away?

And yet it all comes together and makes sense when we see Jesus only and listen to him. This was the most important take away for the disciples. So important the Father makes sure to speak it for them to hear. It would be important as they hear Jesus speak of his death and then watch him go to the cross. It would be important as they face the uncertain terrors over whether or not they were next to be arrested and put to death. It would be important as they hid behind locked doors as Jesus lay behind the guarded stone of his tomb. It would be important as they witnessed his resurrected body and watch him ascend back to the throne of heaven. It would be important as they turned and faced a skeptical and wicked world, a world which would deny their eyewitness accounts, a world which would try to take the focus off of Jesus, change his word and make life about anything and everything in their life and not the life of Jesus. They would need to learn and relearn how important it was to see only Jesus and tune out everything else so they could just listen to him.

And it is just as important today as life becomes more and more noisy with each passing day. We live in a world which is screaming in fear of death as the virus remains an issue. We live in a world that shouts "Listen to me!" as opinion is turned to fact, we try to make sides out of everything and in doing so, drown out the other. We live with our worries and fears. We live with troubles and trials. We live where everyone shows their happiest face online and encourages you and me to be strong enough to make our own happiness and yet we often fail at that. With all this constantly in our face, it becomes easy to want the transfigured Jesus and yet we look up and don't even see the human face of Jesus. We can feel alone, uncertain, frightened and we want a God strong to save and to save now.

But that is why we are encouraged to drown out all the other sound waves that flood our ears, and in that quiet to simply listen to Jesus. For you have seen his glory too! The Word became flesh we are told in the first

chapter of John. It is in God's word we see through listening. We see his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. That was the message in Epiphany. The message which revealed Jesus to us. In very different circumstances, it is also the message in Lent. It is the message in our good days, in our days of trouble. It is the message in life and it is the message in death. Listen to him. He has so much to tell you. It is the message of your victory in the victory of your Jesus. It is the message of your triumph as Jesus marches off the mountain towards lowliness. It is the message of truth as we live in the lair of this world's prince, the father of lies.

Brothers and sisters, open your eyes with me, lift your heads up and together, let us see how we are left with Jesus and listen to him. It is God, in all of his glory, who has come to give himself, in all of his glory and complexity in the clarity and simplicity of his word. May his word be the note that rings through all the noise of life, giving confidence in earned glory of the next through Jesus. Amen.

**Offering:** (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website ([www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

**Prayer:**

Lord God, heavenly Father, it is good for us to be here. You have welcomed us into your presence again today that we might see your glory. You have revealed yourself in the person of your Son Jesus Christ. You have given us your Word so that we might view there who you are and what you have done. Give us hearts that always heed the words you spoke to the disciples on the holy mountain, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him."

Lord Jesus, you let your disciples view your divine glory to prepare them for what lay ahead. As they watched you suffer and die, they were to remember the splendor they had seen and the promise you had given that you would rise again. They were to understand that your crown of glory and your cross of shame were not at odds with each other, but were inseparably linked. Keep also our eyes firmly focused on that truth so that we bear with patience any trials that come our way. Enable us to await with anticipation how you will relieve us in this life and glorify us in the life to come.

O Holy Spirit, you filled the hearts of prophets like Elijah and Elisha to enable them to proclaim your word boldly when there were many who opposed them. Be with pastors and missionaries to enable them to carry out that same mission in our own time. Strengthen all your saints to stand firm in the truth on the job or at home, in the classroom or relaxing with friends. Be with us as we go from this place today to enable us to carry out in a Christ-like manner the responsibilities you have given us. Help us to share with others the glory we have seen

Ruler of nations, the world has taken note of the Abraham Accords which have reduced certain tensions between Jews and some Muslims in the Middle East. Unfortunately, those who are the spiritual children of Abraham, the Christians who live in the countries involved, remain orphans in the agreements. They have no voice, no protection. We therefore pray that you continue to be their strength, their shield, their defense. The Christian community in that area has suffered greatly in recent decades. End their misery. Give them strength to continue to proclaim your Word and rebuild their lives. Let them be your salt, your light in the world.

We bring you, O Lord, our private petitions.

### *Private Petitions*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear your people as we pray according to your Word and promise:

**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.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **BLESSING:**

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.

**Amen.**

### **“Farewell to Alleluia”**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, the Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the world *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

**Closing Hymn: “Down from the Mount of Glory” (Christian Worship #97)**