February 26, 2017
Last Sunday after the Epiphany
The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Welcome to God’s House of Worship!

We consider it a privilege to worship our living Lord with you this morning! If you have any questions regarding our congregation, please talk with the pastor. We look forward to meeting you. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

A few notes:
- The order of worship is found in this folder.
- Restrooms are located in the foyer.
- Our fellowship hall is equipped with a speaker and child-friendly toys.
- Our service lasts about 65 minutes.

The Presence of Jesus: His Glory!

Today we conclude the Epiphany Season (Epiphany = to reveal, to make clear). During Epiphany we were reminded that Jesus really is the Promised Savior as we see Him do miracles and listen to Him teach. Generally, Jesus’ glory was hidden. It needed to be so, for if God were to reveal His full glory to us humans, we would be consumed. But today we see a glimpse of His full glory. As we see it, we gain an even greater appreciation for His love for us!

Prayer Before Worship

O Glorious Savior, remind me today of how amazing Your glory is! Lift the veil of ignorance from my eyes and heart, that I might see You as You are, and might be encouraged by the depth of Your love for me. Bless my worship, O Savior! Amen.
Preservice music will be used to help in quiet preparation for worship.

We Enter God’s Presence

OPENING HYMN

How Good, Lord, to Be Here
Christian Worship 95

Please stand

TRANSFIGURATION LITANY (Psalm 148 NIV84, selected)

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

Congregation: (spoken) Amen.

M: Praise the LORD from the heavens.

C: Praise Him in the heights above.

M: Praise Him, sun and moon. Praise Him, all you shining stars.

C: Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the skies.

The late service continues with the Order of Holy Baptism on page 12 in the front part of the red hymnal.

+++ Baptism of Grace Louise Nitz, infant daughter of Aaron and Katie Nitz +++

BAPTISMAL HYMN

See This Wonder in the Making
Christian Worship 300

After the hymn, we continue with the Prayer of the Day on page 5 of the worship folder.
M: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created.

C: He set them in place forever and ever.

M: Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths.

C: Lighting and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do His bidding.

M: You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle.

C: Kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth.

M: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;

C: His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

M: He has raised up for His people a horn, the praise of all His saints, of Israel, the people close to His heart.

C: Praise the Lord!

All sing: Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit, Great Jehovah, Three in One! Glory, glory while eternal ages run!

M: Were God to reveal His full glory to us, we would be consumed, for we are sinful human beings. In humility we confess our sins, asking for God’s mercy:

C: You, O God, are the Ruler of heaven and earth! Forgive us for failing to recognize Your glory, for failing to worship You whole-heartedly, for failing to serve You with our lives. Surely we deserve Your punishment. Have mercy on us, O Savior!

M: Be at peace, children of God, for God HAS been merciful! Jesus laid aside His glory, humbling Himself in order to save us. He was even willing to
undergo death, yes, death on a cross, to win forgiveness for you and for me. Be at peace! God has forgiven you!

C: To God be the glory forever and ever!

All sing: Glory be to him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain; Glory be to him who bought us, Made us kings with him to reign! Glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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: (spoken) Amen.

All sing: Glory to the King of angels, Glory to the Church’s King, Glory to the King of nations, Heav’n and earth, your praises bring! Glory, glory to the King of glory sing!

Glory, blessing, praise eternal! —Thus the choir of angels sings: Honor, riches, pow’r, dominion! —Thus its praise creation brings. Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!

Be seated
We Listen to God’s Word

FIRST LESSON  
Exodus 24:12, 15-18 (NIV2011)
Moses entered the cloud of the Lord’s glory once on Mt. Sinai and he would see that glory again on the Mount of Transfiguration.

12 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 commandments I have written for their instruction.”

15 When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, 16 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. 17 To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. 18 Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

PSALM OF THE DAY  
“Test” Psalm 2B (Why Are Nations Raging)  
(printed on the next page)

SECOND LESSON  
2 Peter 1:16-21 (NIV2011)
The Apostle Peter assures us of his eyewitness testimony that Jesus is the Son of God.

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 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.” 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, 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. 20 Above
all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the
prophet’s own interpretation of things.  

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Mark 9:7b (NIV84)

M: Alleluia. A voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”  Alleluia.

C: (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please stand for the highlight of the service: the Gospel.

GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9 (NIV2011)

Jesus gives his disciples and us a glimpse of his glory to assure us that his suffering and death were lovingly and willingly done to save us.

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.  

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

Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

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.”

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

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”

When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.
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.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: *(sung)* Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY Down from the Mount of Glory
Christian Worship 97

SERMON
Text: Matthew 17:1-9
Theme: “A Life-Changing Moment”

Please stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.

We Respond to God’s Word with Thanks

OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS
The members of St. Mark’s have joined together to spread God’s message both in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God’s Word with you! Please take a moment to sign our friendship register.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR TRANSFIGURATION
M: We praise you, O Father, for the precious gift of your Son and for his glorious transfiguration on the holy mountain. Give us the firm resolve to listen to your Son, the eager readiness to believe his promises, and the joyful willingness to heed his commandments.

C: By the sign of Moses and Elijah, show us that blessed are the dead who die in faith, for they shall know the power of Christ’s resurrection and shall be “changed from glory into glory.”

M: O God and Father, let your Holy Spirit find a dwelling in our poor bodies and transform our weak, sinful lives into the radiance of goodness, purity,
and righteousness. Transform our minds, our understanding, our judgments, yes, our whole persons to reflect the mind of Christ. Take our sickness and pain, our disappointments and despair, our sorrows and mourning, our pride and anger, our selfishness and envy, our hate and fear: take all these, O Father, and transform them by the healing touch of Jesus into noble impulses, pure motives, kind thoughts, constructive deeds, high courage, and true faith.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: Look on your Church, O Lord, here and in every place, and grant that we and all who bear the name of Christ may daily offer up to you the acceptable sacrifices of repentance, thanksgiving, and loving obedience. Hear our prayer, and by your mercy grant our petitions for Christ’s sake. Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Be seated*

**HYMN**

*In Christ Alone*

*Christian Worship Supplement 752*

*(printed on the next page)*
Please stand

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.
BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.


FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

M: 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 word 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

Alleluia, Song of Triumph

Sung to the tune of CW 29
(printed on the next page)

Following the final hymn and while the bell tolls we pause for a brief moment of meditation on the thoughts of the worship hour.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


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As Lent Approaches…

Cross & Nails — The Elders of St. Mark’s are providing an additional way to prepare our hearts this Lenten season. Starting on Ash Wednesday each worshipper will be given a small nail. Additional nails will also be available for those who are not present on Ash Wednesday. During the 6 weeks of Lent you are encouraged to keep that nail with you as a reminder of the sufferings that our sins caused our Savior. May we continually repent of our sins, turn from them, and trust in the forgiveness Jesus came to win. Then, at our Tennebrae service on Good Friday, you will have opportunity to take your nail and place it into a special cross as a reminder that we have left our sins on the cross of Christ. The cross and nails will be removed for our glorious celebration of Jesus’ resurrection on Easter.

Curtain Covering Back Window — The Old Testament worship facility (both the Tabernacle and the Temple) was set up to symbolize how sin separates people from God. There was a large curtain that separated the “Holy Place” from the “Most Holy Place.” The only time that someone was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place was on the Great Day of Atonement and only after a sacrifice had been made. In other words, God was teaching his people that a sacrifice for sins was needed to enter God’s presence. On Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross, this massive curtain that separated the people from God in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice we can enter God’s presence (see Hebrews 10:19-22). We’ve decided to try to picture this symbolism during Lent using our beautiful back window. Starting Ash Wednesday and for 6 weeks the window will be covered; then as part of the Good Friday service it will be torn apart so that on Easter Sunday we can once again enjoy the beauty of light streaming through the window that pictures our resurrected Lord.

Idea for Lent — Each day of the 40 days of Lent pick out one item from your home and set it aside to be given to a future garage sale that will be held to benefit a group in the church or the school. It could be a piece of clothing, cookware, artwork, blankets, books, whatever item you choose. Then when it’s time for the garage sale you could bring these items. If you have any questions, please speak with Shelly Willison.
WELCOME!
If this is your first time worshiping with St. Mark’s, we pray it will be the first of many times! If you have questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Nitz or one of the members. Materials are available in the entry; take as much as you’d like.

IN OUR PRAYERS
Janet Bitzer (with health concerns)
Sally Carroll (with health concerns)
Ruth Willberg (with health concerns—cancer)
Mary Estabrooks (with health concerns—cancer)
Kevin Peterson (with health concerns—cancer)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK
Early: 36 Late: 84 Total: 120

YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE FOR JESUS
“Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2 Corinthians 8:7)

 Contributions last week $4,822
 Contributions needed each week $5,122
 Contributions year to date $31,734
 Budget year to date $35,854
 Amount borrowed from savings to meet expenses $1,000

SERVING THE LORD AND US
Organists: Jody Bitter, Erin Riess
Greeters: Loren & Belinda B., Tom & Sally C.
Church cleaning for 3/4: Webb*, Stinar, M. Holderbecker, TJ Holderbecker
 (*Group Leader)
Basic Life Support Class

Saturday, March 25, 2017
8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

A Basic Life Support class will be held on Saturday, March 25th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in St. Mark's Fellowship Room. The instructor, Janell Haugen, is a certified CPR instructor. The Friends and Family CPR Course teaches adult CPR and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator), how to help a choking adult and child and infant, CPR for children and infants. She also will go over some first aid. Anyone ages 10 or older is welcome. If you have questions talk to the Parish Nurses, Terri Bentler at (218) 760-3041 or Donna Schroeder at (218) 209-0696. Sign up by talking to the nurses or sign up on the paper in the entryway by March 19. Lunch (paid for by Thrivent) will be provided after the class. There is no cost to attend the class, but we are asking for a freewill offering to help defray the cost for the instructor.
Announcements

EMAIL REMINDERS
In addition to the postcard reminders for church cleaning and greeting, we will begin to send email reminders for “Opportunities to Serve.” At some point in the future we would like to use email alone, but during a transition time we will use both methods.

TIME AND TALENT AUCTION
The Stewardship Board is again sponsoring our annual Time and Talent Auction on Sunday April 23, 2017. Mark your calendar for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Please consider making donation to the auction and let the Stewardship Board know what you are donating.

PSALM SURVEY
St. Mark’s has agreed to try out some new psalm settings for the WELS Hymnal Project. They are asking for feedback from worship planners, musicians, and YOU—the worshipers. Today’s psalm is a part of this project. Please fill out the survey (bulletin insert) and give it to an usher or put it in the Riesses’ mailbox. Extra surveys are available in the narthex. Thank you!

MIDWEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE
5:45—6:30 p.m. Meal served (Ash Wed. is a potluck)
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

March 1 “Repent! Turn to Jesus and not to yourself”
March 8 “Repent! Turn to Jesus: Do not turn away”
March 15 “Repent! Turn to Jesus: He holds the key to heaven”
March 22 “Repent! Turn to Jesus: He longs to forgive you”
March 29 “Repent! Turn to Jesus: He changes your life”
April 5 “Repent! Turn to Jesus when you face temptations”
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 26 (Sun)… 8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship

Feb 28 (Tues)… 7:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study @ Country Kitchen

Mar 1 (Wed)… 9:00 a.m. Moms & Tots
4:00 p.m. First year confirmation class
5:45 p.m.—6:30 p.m. Potluck supper
6:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

Mar 2 (Thurs)… 4:00 p.m. Campus Ministry
5:00 p.m. Our Promise at Your Baptism @ Lueken’s north deli
6:00 p.m. All boards & committees meet
7:30 p.m. Council meeting

Mar 4 (Sat)… 10:00 a.m. Jesus Cares

Mar 5 (Sun)… 8:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

*If you would like to have St. Mark’s online calendar synced with your Google calendar, you can choose “Add a friend’s calendar” and put in: stmarkbemidji@gmail.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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St. Mark’s Mission Statement

We, the members of St. Mark’s, are a Christ-centered church family that will glorify God, grow in His Word, and go with it to all.
(1 Corinthians 10:31, 2 Peter 3:18, Matthew 28:18-20)