



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)
Central Illinois District (CID)

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(Announcements & Calendars can be found @ our Web Site:
www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org)

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Taylorville
Or: Trinity Lutheran Church Taylorville Illinois

lcms.org cidlcms.org

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Rodney Blomquist *Emeritus* (217) 824-4705

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Trinity Lutheran ChildCare*PLUS*: (217) 287-2229

childcareplus@ctitech.com

Worship:

Saturday: 6:15 p.m.

Sunday: 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. *(Located in the church basement)*

Sunday Morning Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Class: 10:45 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.;

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; *(12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch)*

Friday, 9 a.m. – Noon

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From the Pastor

Grace, mercy and peace to you all from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

I pray that you all are well and safe. Continue practicing patience during this confusing time. Keep watch over and stay in contact with family, friends and fellow workers. Simply stay busy doing that which is good and pleasing in the sight of God.

With the COVID vaccine now being administered, our attendance is increase. If you are uncomfortable about the increase in numbers attending, consider signing up for the 10:30 Sunday morning Divine Service. Saturday night and Wednesday evening silent Divine Services are available. Until you are able to gather with us, God keep you in the one true faith till life everlasting.

I am including activities and learning suggestions for you and your children of all ages. I hope this will deepen your appreciation and understand of the Divine Service.

For younger children

*Word Search: Find any of these words **My Beloved Son***

[Underline or highlight this word or phrase throughout the Divine Service]

A Sunday School lesson can be found at our website: www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org

5th graders and older: Mark the service with directional arrows [↗] as to show what direction the interaction between God, us and with each other is taking place. Use these symbols to indicate our posture during the service [| - standing in respect; ⊔ - kneeling to receive a blessing or show respect; ⊞ - humbly sitting to receive from the Lord].

The coloring page can be saved in Paint 3D for your children and you to color on the computer screen.

Also, have those who can read, answer the questions found throughout the Divine Service. They can highlight or underline the answers usually found above the questions.

For older children especially those who are in or have in the past studied Luther's Small Catechism

Where is this found in the Luther's Small Catechism? Put *LSC* in the margin and the section [*Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Office of the Keys, or the Lord's Supper*] of the catechism where this teaching can be found. [*ex: LSC-Baptism*]

A Bible Study on one of the lessons can be found at our website: www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org

Adults/parents

You may find this helpful to do the above also, even the drawing and coloring. For the youngest of your children, draw a cross or a picture, if your talent so allows, anywhere in the Divine Service and let your little ones color them.

Another exercise you can do is to journal your thoughts on the Word and the following service. Each day read through a section and journal your thoughts and/or insights you may have. If you know to insert and use "Text Box" that is a good way to do it. You may also go to "References" and use "Foot Note" to record your thoughts or insight.

Registering for afterschool Catechizing Classes

With public schools going to remote learning and Vision Way still offering full day classes, the afterschool catechizing classes are going to take on a new look. Remote learning without video capabilities will be offered for those who register for remote learning. Small group sessions can be arranged pending the students' schedule. Once you know their schedules let me know.

Contact the church office to register or if you have any questions.

God bless, keep and increase your faith in Christ as you now read, mark and inwardly digest His Word.

Pass It On

From the office of the Central Illinois District LCMS

Transfiguration

We've all experienced it: that moment that we simply do not want to come to an end. What if time froze, or at least slowed way down, so that the present moment would keep on being the present and not become the past?

In a way that's what the Apostle Peter was experiencing, thinking, and finally saying, when he cried out, "It is good that we are here!" He exclaims this in the main Bible reading for this coming Sunday (Mark 9:2-9).

Let's set the stage a bit. Peter was with Jesus up on a mountain. James and John, fellow followers of Jesus, were there as well. All three of them saw a wonderful vision: Jesus, shining as bright as the sun, conversing with Moses and Elijah. Jesus was transfigured before their eyes. He no longer appeared just as a normal man, but there was something a bit glorious about him as they looked. Peter, James, and John were given a peak into the full, unveiled nature of Jesus: not just a man, but in fact God as well.

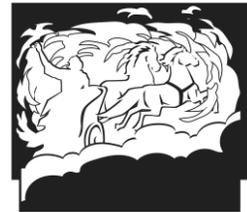
Peter was both right and wrong in his outburst. It *is* good to be with Jesus, but the timing wasn't right. Jesus didn't come to dwell in a tent on that mountain. He came to show his glory on a different hill, upon which he died on a cross for the sins of the whole world. It *is* good to be with Jesus, but Peter, James, and John still had work to do in bringing the good news of Jesus to the world.

That glorious appearance of Jesus? It was a sneak peak (*peek*) into what is to come. When Jesus comes again he will appear in his full glory, having returned to give eternal physical life to everyone who believes in him. Not only will that be the ultimate moment in which we will *want* to remain forever. In truth, we *will*: From that moment on all believers will forever be with Jesus in his glorious paradise.

WORSHIP FOLDER
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
Eyewitness to Glory
February 13 & 14, 2021

As We Gather

There is nothing quite like being an eyewitness, giving a special perspective to share on the event. Peter writes about being on the Mount of Transfiguration as he, James, and John were privileged to have a special vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. He states: “We were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,’ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain” (2 Peter 1:16b–18). Today, through the words of Scripture, we, too, become eyewitnesses and are given a glimpse of glory in the vision of our transfigured Lord!



Order of Divine Service III LSB 184

Opening Hymn “’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here” LSB 414

- 1 ’Tis good, Lord, to be here!
 Thy glory fills the night;
 Thy face and garments, like the sun,
 Shine with unborrowed light.

- 2 ’Tis good, Lord, to be here,
 Thy beauty to behold
 Where Moses and Elijah stand,
 Thy messengers of old.

- 3 Fulfiller of the past
 And hope of things to be,

We hail Thy body glorified
And our redemption see.

4 Before we taste of death,
We see Thy kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright
And make this hill our home.

5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since Thou bidst us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.

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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Jesus has great power. What can He do with such great power?

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit Psalm 99:1-5; antiphon: v. 9

P Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

C **The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**

The LORD is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise Your great and awesome name! Holy is He!

The King in His might loves justice. You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

P Exalt the LORD our God; worship at His footstool! Holy is He!

Gloria Patri LSB 186



Because God is holy we are to do what?

Kyrie LSB 186

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:

C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

How did we become Children of God?

Old Testament Reading 2 Kings 2:1–12

¹When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please 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. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he said, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.” ⁴Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please 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. ⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.” ⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Please 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. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

L This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

How did Elijah go to heaven?

Psalm Psalm 50:1–6

P The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**C Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire,
around Him a mighty tempest.
He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people:
“Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!”**

P The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!

**C 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.**

What declares God righteous and to be our judge?

Epistle 2 Corinthians 3:12–18; 4:1–6

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. ¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Whom do we proclaim?

Verse Psalm 45:2a

P Alleluia. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips.

Alleluia LSB 190



Holy Gospel Mark 9:2-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Name everyone who was present when Jesus was transfigured.

Highlight words and phrases that describe Jesus as the Son of God.

Apostles' Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day “O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair” *LSB 413*

- 1 **O wondrous type! O vision fair**
Of glory that the Church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun He glows!

- 2 With Moses and Elijah nigh
The incarnate Lord holds converse high;
And from the cloud the Holy One
Bears record to the only Son.

- 3 With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above
Who joy in God with perfect love.

- 4 And faithful hearts are raised on high
By this great vision’s mystery,
For which in joyful strains we raise
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

- 5 O Father, with the eternal Son
And Holy Spirit ever one,
We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace
To see Thy glory face to face.

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Sermon “*What to do with Jesus*” Mark 9:2–9

Introduction:

This may be an understatement. Peter didn’t know what to do with Jesus. He has just seen Him be transfigured. This means that Jesus revealed His full divine nature to these three disciples. Plus, they saw Moses and Elijah, two of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament.

He is stunned, overwhelmed and in awe. We might say He was star struck. He didn’t know what to do.

First thought was to honor Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Put tents up, markers that commemorate this great moment. It would become a place to come and worship Jesus and remember the prophets Moses and Elijah.

I. Worship Him

I don't know if we would have thought of doing something like that. Yet, we do set up places and markers to reflect on the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

We build a building and call it a church. Here we come to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a place where we have received the grace of God through the announcement of forgiveness of sin, have heard His Word and have received the person of Christ through the bread and wine of the sacrament.

It is a marker for us to remind us of what our Lord Jesus has done for us. It is a place where we recall His death and resurrection. It is a place where we remember that He is the Son of God and the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

It is the place where we hear the Law and the Prophets speak the Word of God. For Moses was the prophet which God used to bring the law to His people. It was through Moses that the Ten Commandments were given. It was through Moses that God gave the laws concerning the sacrifices of the tabernacle.

Here we hear the words of the prophets, men who carried the Word of God to His people. Elijah was one of those prophets. He brought the Word of God to a people who had rejected their God. As a result, Baal worship became the dominate religion. It was through Elijah that the power of the Word of God was demonstrated. It was in the front of the people of God and Baal worshippers that the sacrifice was consumed by fire. It was Elijah who was honored by God and taken up in a whirlwind and entered the presence of the Lord without dying.

Yes, it is good and proper that we honor our Lord by worshipping in the places we have designated for such purpose.

II. Listen to Him

It would be the voice of the Father in heaven that would tell the disciple what to do with Jesus. The Father declared to them that this Jesus was His beloved Son. Here again this voice declares Jesus to be God. He was not only true man. He was also true God, equal to the Father in all glory, honor and power.

The Father told the disciples to listen to Jesus. They had just seen Moses and Elijah. They wanted to honor them all. But the Father by saying, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him," was reminding them that Moses and Elijah were prophets who carried the Word of God. Jesus was the Word of God. The Law and the Prophets point to Jesus as being the Messiah. They foretold of His coming. The Old Testament describes the person and the work of the Messiah. The voice from heaven, the voice of the Father declares Jesus to be this Messiah, the Savior of the world.

We, too, heed this voice. We are to listen to Jesus in all matters of His teachings. We are to

follow His commands and cling to His promises. We are to repent and believe the gospel of God. We are to hold to the truth that He did come in flesh to be the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. We are to cherish the gospel message that through and because of Christ we are forgiven and have been made Children of God. We are to listen to His Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God believe in Him till He delivers us to our heavenly home.

Conclusion:

The disciples were given the command from Jesus not to reveal this incident until after His death and resurrection. We are to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior through His grace, mercy and forgiveness. He didn't want to be considered God simply by the power He possesses that would be revealed at His resurrection after the debt of sin had been made.

So, we stand in awe of Christ not because of His divine nature but because of His love and grace for us all. And this we do not have to keep secret. We can speak of His grace and mercy and boldly confess Jesus to be the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

T AMEN T

- P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
C **Amen.**

Offertory *LSB 192*

- C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.**

Prayer of the Church Prayer of the Church

- P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.
God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend

[name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer *LSB 196*

P 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.

**C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymns

“Lift High the Cross”

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain

- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain
- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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“Beautiful Savior” **LSB 537**

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

- C **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the
face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Benediction *LSB 202*

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.
- C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Farewell to Alleluia

- P This week with Ash Wednesday, we begin our observance of Lent. To highlight the penitential nature of the season, it is the Church's custom to suspend the use of the word "Alleluia," which means "Praise the Lord." A tradition has been in place since the fifth century not to use the joyful word "Alleluia" in worship from the conclusion of worship on the final Sunday before Lent, which is today, until the first service on Easter Sunday. The text of our closing hymn, "Alleluia, Song of Gladness," dates back to the eleventh century and links us to a millennium of God's people at worship. We now repeat words from the Book of Ecclesiastes, which remind us that there are appropriate times for all things, including a time to keep silence, which we will observe regarding use of the "Alleluia" throughout Lent.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;

- C **a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

P a time to break down, and a time to build up;

- C **a time to weep, and a time to laugh;**

P a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

- C **a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.**

P As part of our observance of a holy Lent as it begins this week, we now say farewell to Alleluia until the time of our rejoicing anew at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

- C **Alleluia! Amen.**

Closing Hymn “Alleluia, Song of Gladness” *LSB 417*

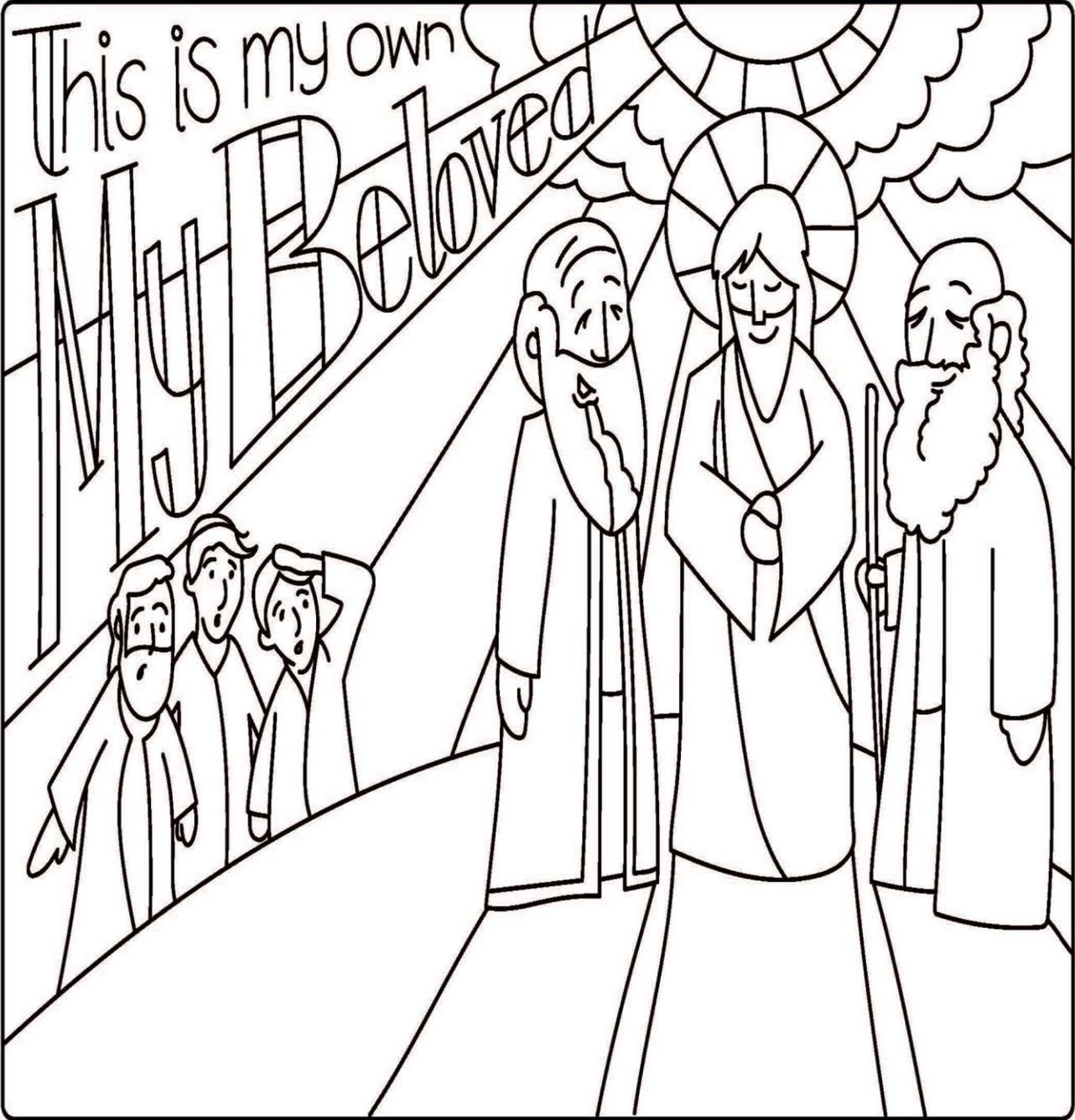
- 1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem
Ever raised by choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding
Thus they sing eternally.
- 2 Alleluia, thou resoundest,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother,
All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon’s sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.
- 3 Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluia, our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.
- 4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,
Grant us, blessèd Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter
With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.

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Acknowledgments

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