

# Transfiguration Sunday

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

Portage Lake United Church



Lectionary Year C

*Liturgical Colors: Green*



Prayers for Reconciliation (after WWII Bombings)  
Reconciliation Church, Dresden, Germany

# Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

- Ash Wednesday service Wednesday, March 5th @ 7:30 pm..
- Lenten Soup and Worship with Good Shepherd starts on March 12th. Details in the newsletter and weekly email.
- The Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry is coming to our area on March 5th. 10am-11am distribution time at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chassell. If you would like to volunteer call the Holy Trinity church office (906)523-4315 to let them know, plan on being there from 8:30-noon. .
- Angel Mission needs: Chicken, beef, vegetable broth and stock

## *Serving This Morning*

President: Rev. Peter Norland  
Musician: Susie Byykkonen  
Greeter: Sze Wenn tiang  
Reader: Christina Norland  
Prayer Writer: Rev. Peter Norland  
Communion: Ann Campbell;  
Coffee: Judy Albee, Biruta Lowther  
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

***Are there any other announcements?***

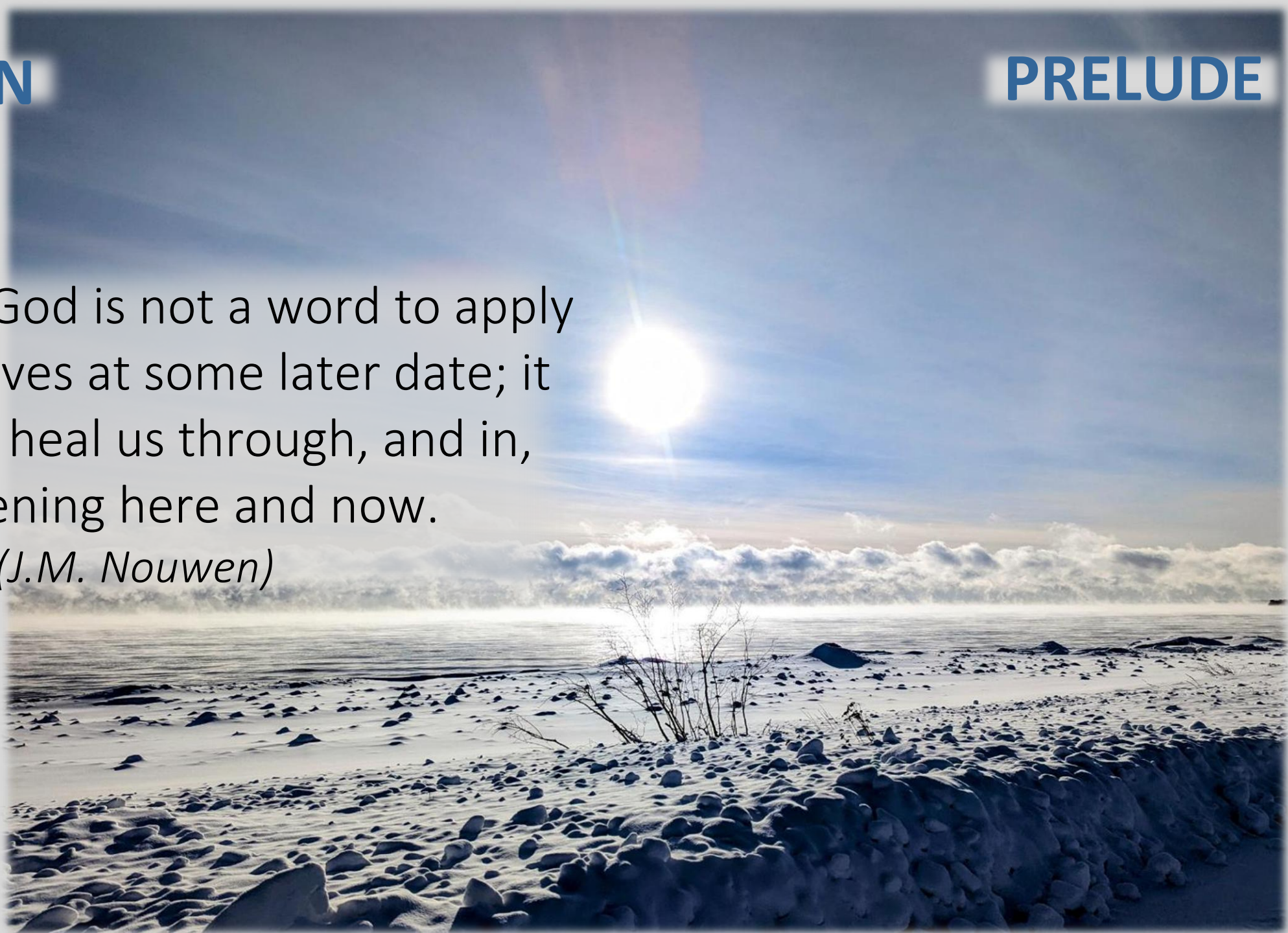


# MEDITATION

# PRELUDE

The Word of God is not a word to apply  
in our daily lives at some later date; it  
is a word to heal us through, and in,  
our listening here and now.

*(J.M. Nouwen)*



# + Call to Worship (responsive)

God of the mountaintop, you call us to journey with you.

**Shine upon us; grant us sacred illumination;  
dazzle us with your beauty and glory.**

In the midst of our weary souls and exhausted bodies,  
**Transfigure our imaginations  
and reveal to us what is possible.**

In the face of unceasing violence and endless wars,  
**Transfigure our imaginations  
and reveal to us what is possible.**

In the midst of crushing disasters, natural and humanmade,  
**Transfigure our imaginations  
and reveal to us what is possible.**

Move us from scarcity and cynicism and transfigure  
our lowly visions to reveal the abundant life of your realm.

**Help us keep watch so that leaving the mountaintop,  
we are inspired to do your work of transformation|  
in the valley below. Amen.**



# ✦ Hymn "Sing of God Made Manifest"

# INSERT

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JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

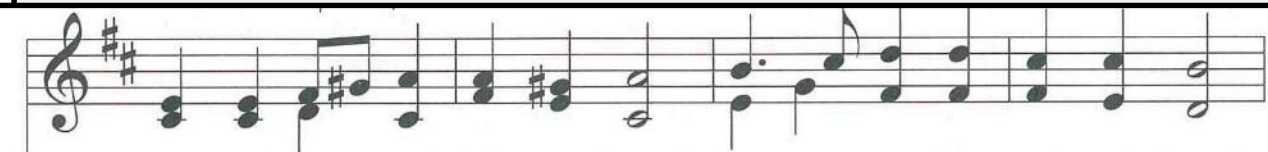
## Sing of God Made Manifest 156



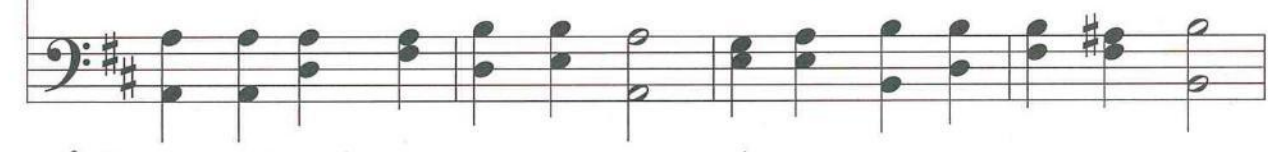
1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,  
2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,  
3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest  
4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,



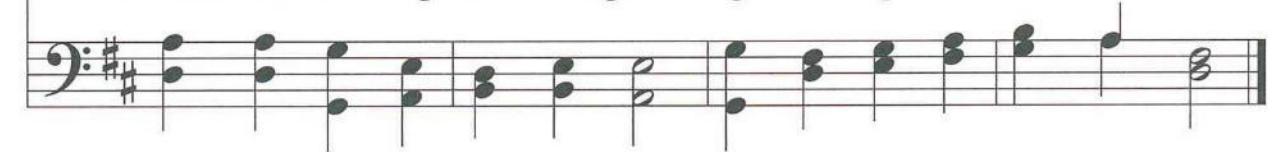
to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,  
"I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."  
and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:



ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:  
Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—  
fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,  
glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.  
hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."  
bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.  
towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.



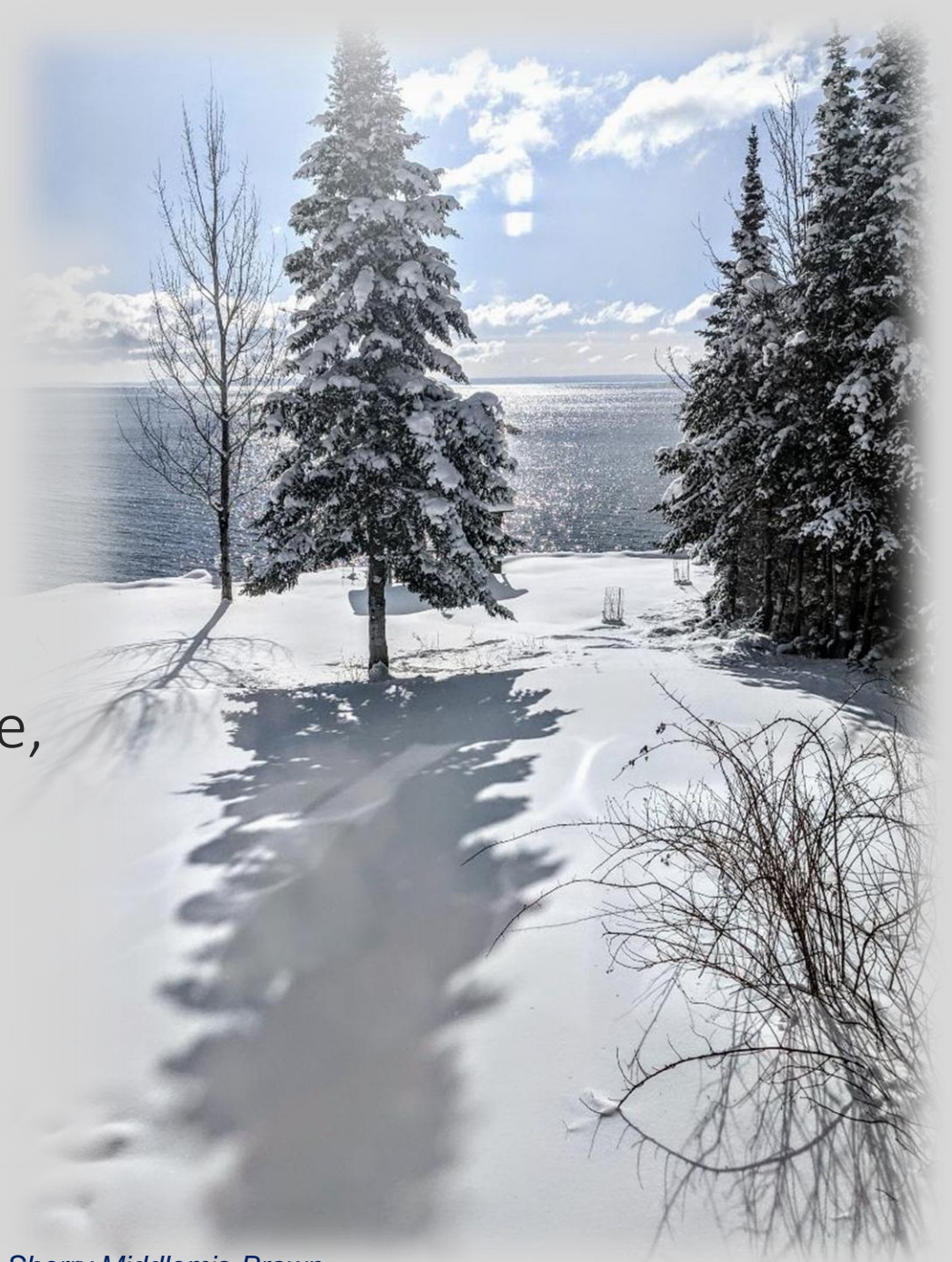
"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1990  
MUSIC: Jakob Hintze, 1678; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach  
Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

SALZBURG  
7.7.7.7.D

## + PRAYER OF THE DAY

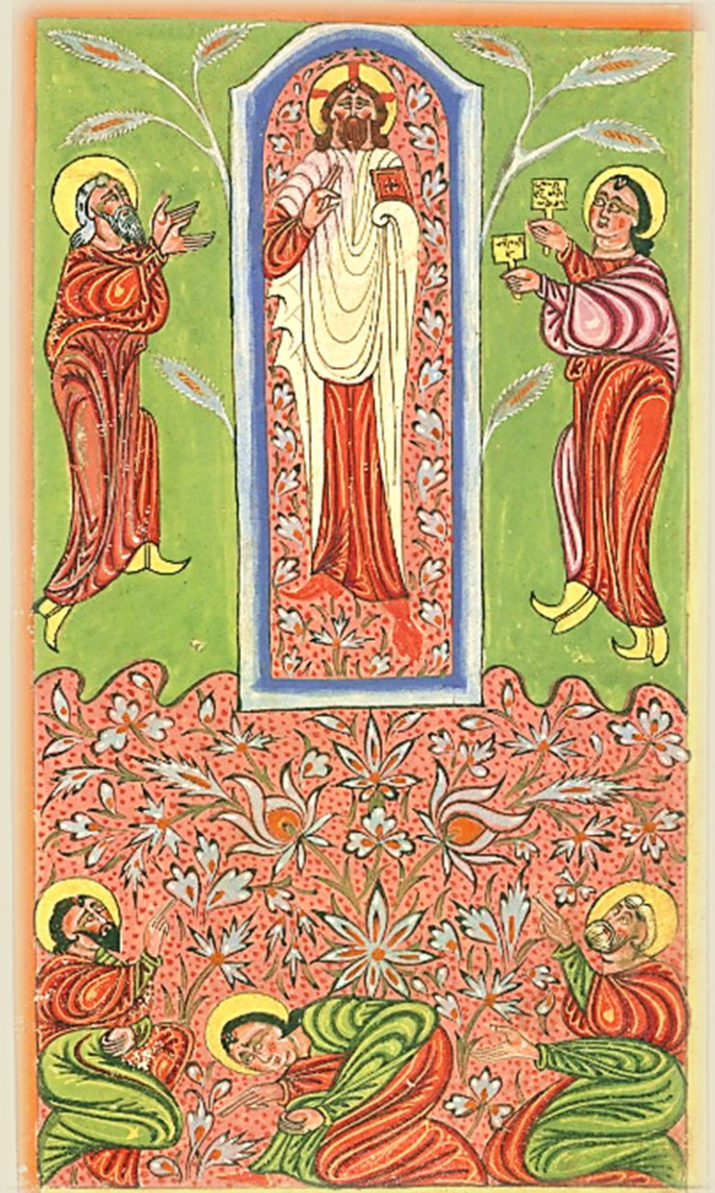
God who dazzles,  
just as you revealed yourself in Christ  
at the mount of transfiguration,  
you send your Spirit now to work in our midst.  
Show us this day the light of your presence.  
Reveal to us your power and glory.  
Illumine our hearts and lives with your brilliance,  
that we might envision a world transfigured  
in your image.  
**Amen.**



*Sherry Middlemis-Brown*

# + Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy Lord,  
we confess that we do not always seek  
the light of your way.  
We are satisfied to dwell in darkness,  
holding fast to the comforts of material fortune.  
We ignore the needs of others,  
and selfishly look the other way  
when our neighbors are oppressed.  
In your merciful way,  
help us to establish your equity in the world.  
Move us to protect creation and ensure equality,  
that all of our siblings may share your abundance  
and the safety of your peace,  
and that the light of your face  
may shine upon all creation.



*Transfiguration from Syrian Manuscript*  
Yohannes Vardapet  
Walters Art Museum Baltimore, MD

# + PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

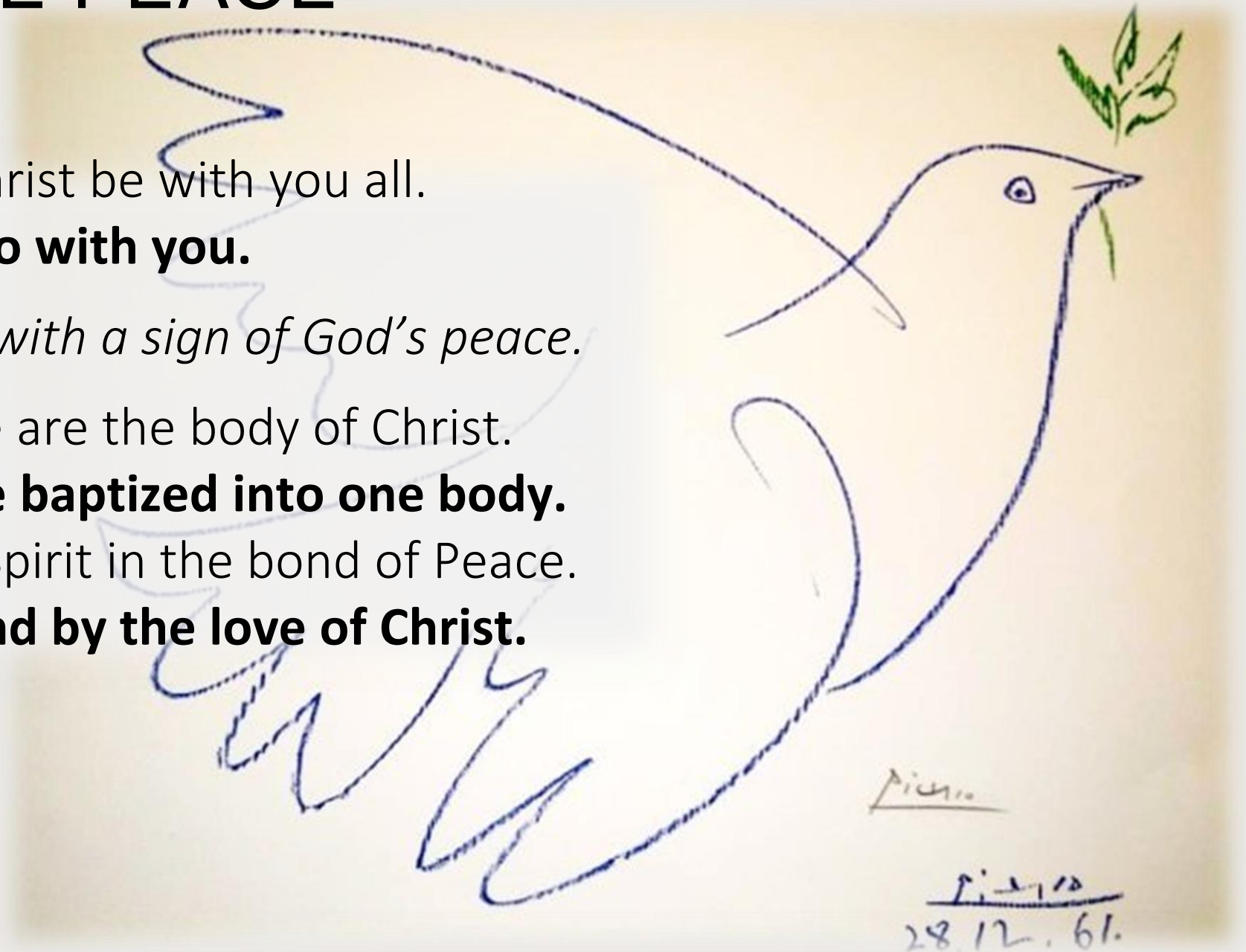
*We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

**Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**





WORD



*Moses on the Mountain*  
Marc Chagall, Musée du Message Biblique Marc-Chagall, Nice, France

## Exodus 34:29-35

### The Shining Face of Moses

**29** Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. **30** When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. **31** But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. **32** Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. **33** When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; **34** but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, **35** the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

## 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

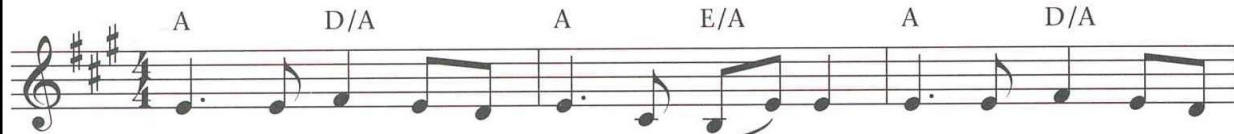
**12** Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, **13** not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. **14** But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. **15** Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; **16** but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. **17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

**4** Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. **2** We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

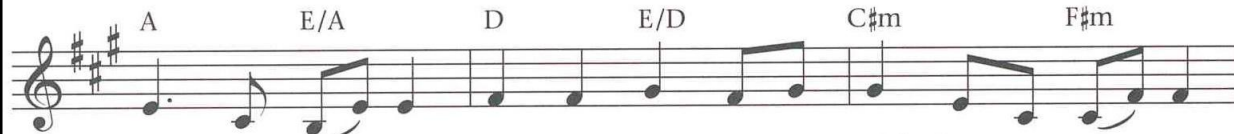
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

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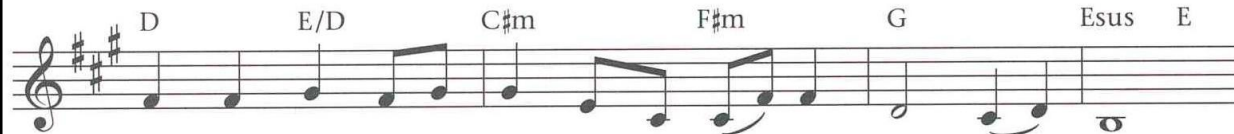
Shine, Jesus, Shine



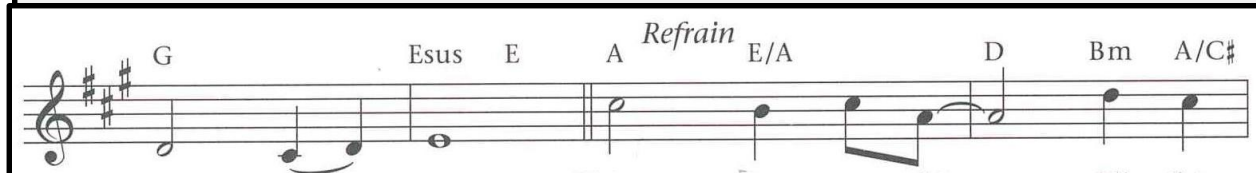
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing in the midst of the  
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the shad - ows in -  
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -



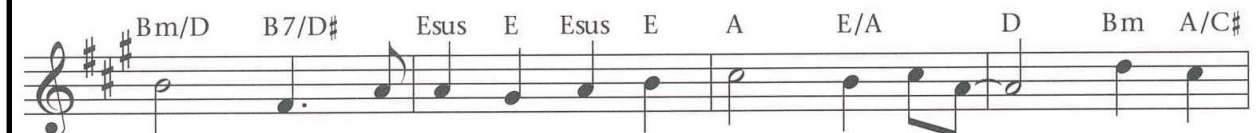
dark - ness, shin - ing. Je - sus, Light of the world, shine up - on us;  
to your ra - diance; by the blood I may en - ter your bright - ness;  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



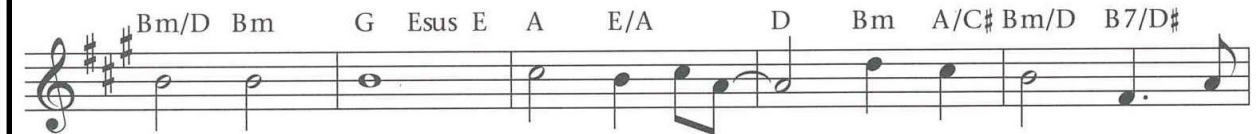
set us free by the truth you now bring us: Shine on me,  
search me, try me, con - sume all my dark - ness: Shine on me,  
mir - rored here may our lives tell your sto - ry: Shine on me,



shine on me. Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this



land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry. Blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our



hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with



grace and mer - cy. Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

## The Transfiguration

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

## ✚ GOSPEL READING Luke 9:28-43a (continued)

<sup>37</sup> On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup> Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup> Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup> I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” <sup>41</sup> Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” <sup>42</sup> While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup> And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**



Sermon



 **GIVE NOW**

Offering

To make a gift to the ministry of PLUC [click here.](#)



# ✦ Offering and Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy are you, O Lord!  
We praise your great and awesome name.  
Use us, and these our gifts, in your service,  
to establish justice, righteousness, and peace,  
all for the good of your people  
and the glory of your eternal realm. Amen.



Take, O Take Me As I Am

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D G/D Em/D A/D D G/B Asus A

Take, O take me as I am; sum'-mon out what I shall be;

G A/G D Bm Em D Asus A

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text and music: John Bell (b. 1949)

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# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



# MEAL

*GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.



# MEAL

*GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST*

## PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (ECUMENICAL)

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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.



The Best Supper © Jan Richardson [janrichardsonimages.com](http://janrichardsonimages.com)

MEAL

*GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION



# ✦ COMMUNION HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table" GREEN #245

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LORD'S SUPPER

245

## As We Gather at Your Table

Capo 3 (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (D/A) (A) (D)  
F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C F B $\flat$  F/C C F

1 As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your Word,  
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

(D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (D/A) (A) (D)  
F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C F B $\flat$  F/C C F

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

(D) (G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)  
F B $\flat$  F C F B $\flat$  F C

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

(D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (D/A) (A) (D)  
F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C F B $\flat$  F/C C F

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)  
Music: J. Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*; harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)  
Text © 1989, Hope Publishing Co.; harm. © Oxford University Press, Inc.

87 87 D  
PLEADING SAVIOR

MEAL

*GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION





# HYMN "We Are Marching in the Light of God" GREEN #293

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Siyahamba /

BLESSING AND PARTING

## We Are Marching in the Light of God

G D7 G C/G G C/G G

Zulu Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -  
English We are march - ing\* in the light of God, we are  
Spanish Ca - mi - nan - do en la luz de Dios, ca - mi -

nyen' kwen khos'.  
light of God.  
luz de Dios.  
G Ooo D7

ham - ba, ham - ba si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen kha -  
march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, the  
nan - do, va - mos, ca - mi - nan - do en la luz de, la

nyen' kwen khos'.  
light of God.  
luz de Dios.

D7

hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. nyen' kwen kha -  
march - ing in the light of God. light of, the  
nan - do en la luz de Dios. luz de la

(khos') Si - ya - ham - ba  
(God) We are march - ing  
(Dios) Ca - mi - nan - do

G7 C

nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -  
light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are  
luz de Dios. Ca - mi - nan - do va - mos, ca - mi -

(khos') Si - ya - ham - ba  
(God) We are march - ing  
(Dios) Ca - mi - nan - do

G7 C

nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -  
light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are  
luz de Dios. Ca - mi - nan - do va - mos, ca - mi -

G Ooo D7

ham - ba, ham - ba si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God.  
nan - do, va - mos, ca - mi - nan - do en la luz de Dios.

\* alternate text: dancing, praying, singing

# SENDING

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

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

Since we have such hope,  
live and act with boldness!  
Follow the ways of Jesus.  
Love and serve the Lord  
in the freedom of the Spirit.

May the glory of the Lord shine upon you,  
the Word of the Lord live within you,  
and the Spirit of the Lord give you peace.  
Amen!



# Reflection and Postlude

Look at Luke 9:35: “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

Where have you heard words like these before in the Gospels? (Hint: see Luke 3:22.)

Where have you heard words like these in your own life?

When have you had a strong sense of being chosen, claimed, and called by God?

How have you responded?

## *Thanks to*

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeter: Sze Wenn tiang

Reader: Christina Norland

Prayer Writer: Rev. Peter Norland

Communion: Ann Campbell;

Coffee: Judy Albee, Biruta Lowther

Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

## *Visio Divina*

### **Photos by**

Ann Campbell

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Matthew Monte

Jim Northey

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The Greatest of These © Jan Richardson

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## **Portage Lake United Church**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton Michigan 49931  
[www.PLUC.org](http://www.PLUC.org)    [office@pluc.org](mailto:office@pluc.org)    (906)482-5224

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Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.