

# February 19th, 2012

## Transfiguration of Our Lord



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

Church Secretary: Evie Richter Youth: Susie Modrow

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, February 19, 2012/ Holy Communion Transfiguration of Our Lord

## INTRODUCTION

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

## PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN:

**“How Great Thou Art”**

**#856 ELW**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC by Darwin Bruesewitz**

### **FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1–12**

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they

came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

### **PSALM: Psalm 50:1–6**

*Refrain: Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)*

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

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory. R**

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

**God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause, for it is God who is judge. R**

### **GOSPEL: Mark 9:2–9**

*Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent*

*to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

HYMN:

“Blessed Assurance”

# 638 ELW



SERMON

## OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved people made radiant by the light of Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human family, and God's good creation.

*A time for silent prayer.*

Shining God, reveal yourself. Show us Jesus, that your church may not be misled by false visions of glory. Grant us courage to follow where you lead. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shining Son, transfigure the earth. Show us your glory in our kindred creatures, in the

beauty of creation, and in those who are committed to the care of this world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shining Spirit, stay with us. Bring the dawn of peace to every nation. Illuminate our neighbors' need so that we will see and respond. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Father, let light shine out of darkness. Speak to those who look for glimmers of hope: refugees and displaced persons, exiles and immigrants, those who are lonely, and those who are ill (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Christ our light, dazzle us with glory, that we reflect your radiance as we minister in our daily lives. Kindle in us the desire to love and serve all your children. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

Radiant Spirit, light our pathways, even as you guided those who have gone before us in faith. Bring us, with them, to the full vision of your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, we lift our prayers to you in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **COMMUNION**



## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers  
Greeters: Carol Bakken & Irene Long  
Ushers: 8:30 Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal, 10:00 Dick & Sue Stebbins  
Lectors: 8:30 Ruth Hamman, 10:00 Randy Tofteland  
Coffee Servers: Tom & Judy Forester, Wally & Bev Swensen

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (2/12/12)

Attendance: 8:30 – 76                      10:00 – 40  
Offering: \$ 1,890.00                      Building Fund: \$ 315.00

**\$ 3,846.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.**

**\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.**

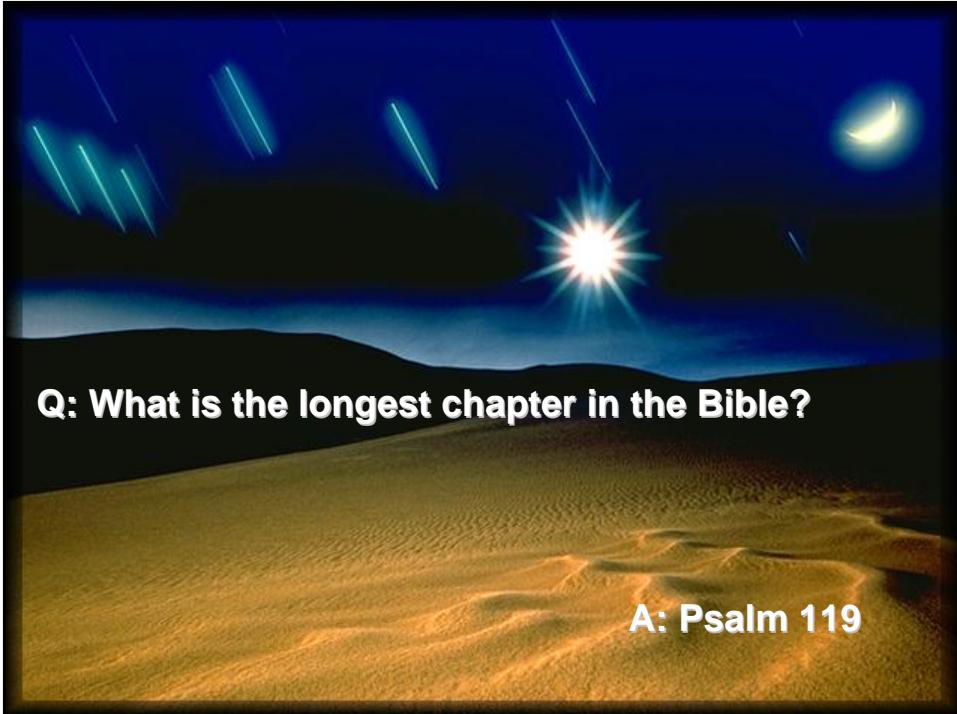
## THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> THRU FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

Mon., Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 a.m.	Council Meeting
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
	10:00 a.m.	Stewardship Meeting
Wed., Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Potluck
	6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs., Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S
	8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers



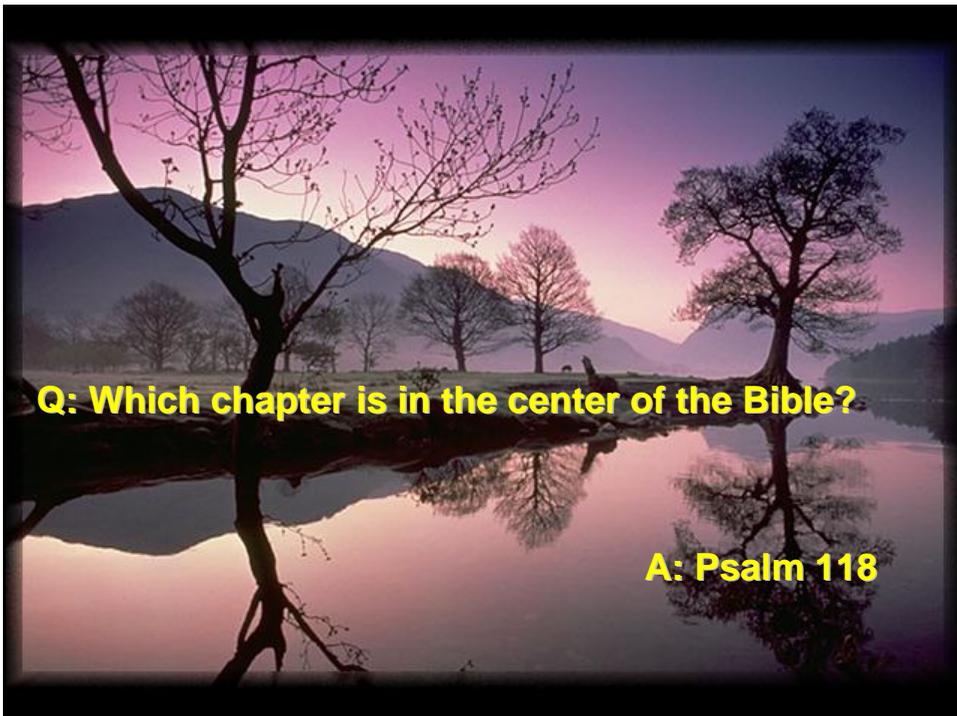
**Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?**

**A: Psalm 117**



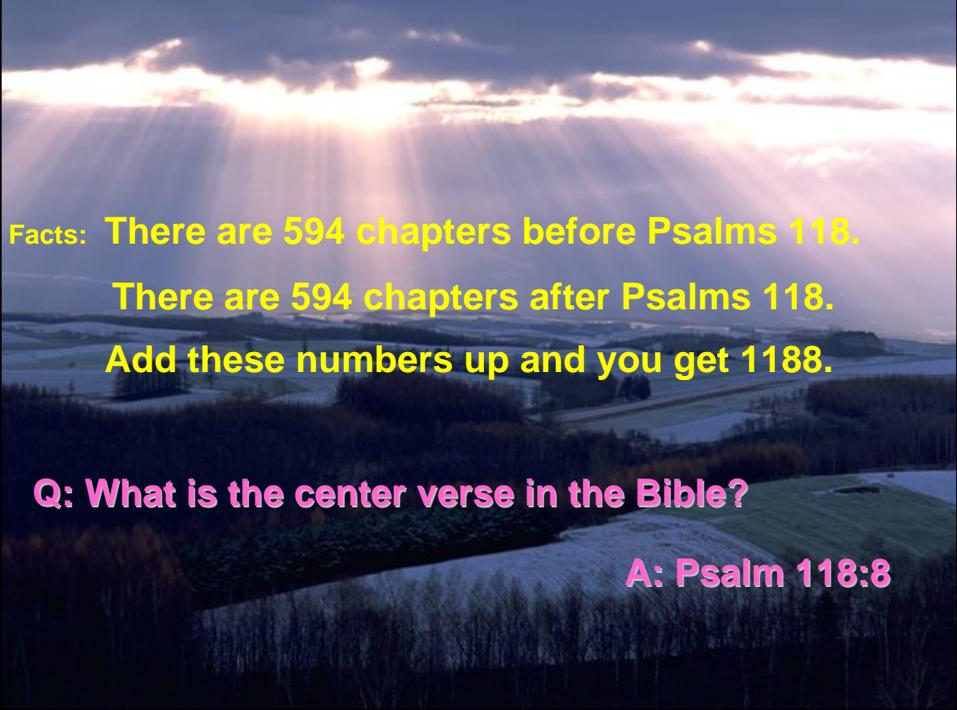
**Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?**

**A: Psalm 119**



**Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?**

**A: Psalm 118**



**Facts: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118.  
There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118.  
Add these numbers up and you get 1188.**

**Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?**

**A: Psalm 118:8**



**Psalms 118:8 (NKJV)**

**"It is better to trust in the LORD  
than to put confidence in man."**

**Now isn't that odd how this worked out ...  
or is God in the center of it?**

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. Two palm trees are silhouetted against the sky in the foreground.

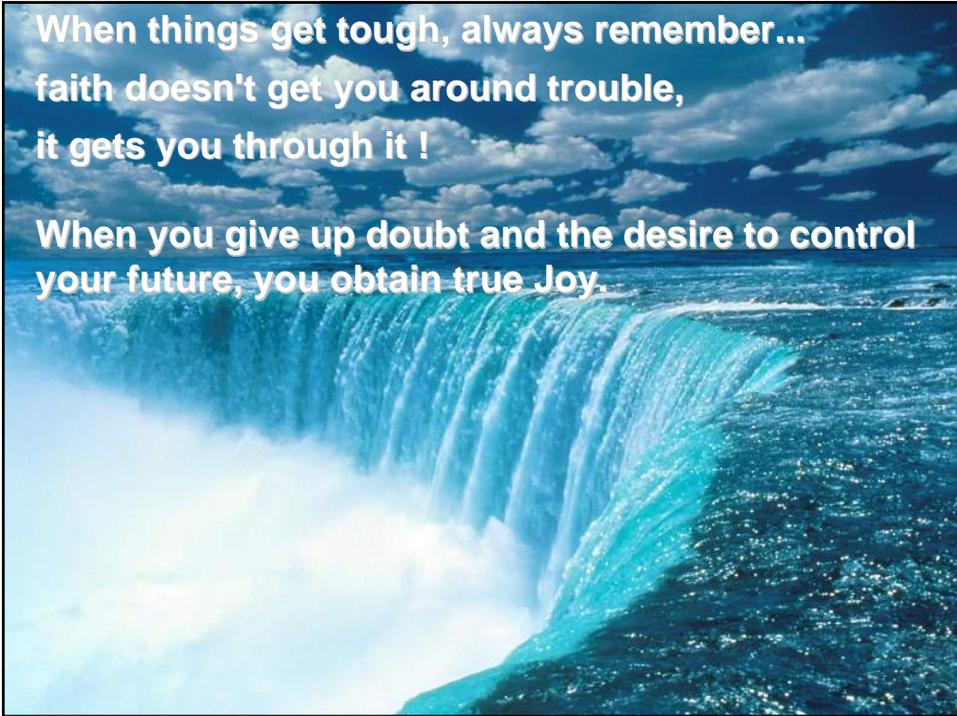
**Does this verse say something significant  
about God's perfect will for our lives?**

**The next time you would like to find  
God's perfect will for your life and you want  
to be in the center of His will, just go to the  
center of His Word!**



**When things get tough, always remember...  
faith doesn't get you around trouble,  
it gets you through it !**

**When you give up doubt and the desire to control  
your future, you obtain true Joy.**



[Click to Return](#)

**Claim Peace and Assurance**

**in God's Love**

**Pray with confidence**

**Be sure of the Hope in Eternal Life**

