



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

THE EPIPHANY OF THE SON OF GOD - JESUS ONLY!

“And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only” (Mark 9:8 ESV). Today we read how Peter, James and John caught a glimpse of Jesus’ radiant glory. As Jesus was wrapped in light before them, they heard the Father’s voice saying, “Listen to Him” (Mark 9:7 ESV). In the end, “Jesus only” captures all their attention and ours.

This weekend is celebrated around the world with several different emphases. For many in the West, today is Valentine’s Day - a moment to share our love with one another. For those in the East, today is the third day of the Lunar New Year of the Ox - a special time to gather as family and greet one another with words of blessing. For the church around the world this is the last Sunday of Epiphany - Transfiguration Sunday - when we see the love of the Father fully beaming through Jesus to His disciples. At International Lutheran Church, we have been reading through the Gospel of Mark and seeing how Jesus is revealed as the Son of God during this Epiphany season. As we conclude this glorious season of light, we see *Jesus only*.

Mark’s description of the account of Jesus’ transfiguration is very similar to the other accounts in Matthew and Luke. There are two notable differences. The first is that Mark only mentions the clothing of Jesus shining beyond the brightness that any worldly bleach could make them. We might think of Psalm 104:2a where the LORD is described as the One who “wraps Himself in light as with a garment.” Was Mark reflecting the view of Peter, who had refused to look at Jesus when He had caused such a great catch of fish (Luke 5:8) at the beginning of their relationship? Another minor nuance is the ordering of those men of faith who appear with Jesus in His glory - Elijah and Moses. While it is true that they do symbolize both the Law and the Prophets and their own witness to the One who would fulfill both, to place Elijah first seems to emphasize the glory of the Lord that appears at the end of his ministry of preparation as the coming Kingdom is unfolding before their very eyes. The voice of the Father is what matters most, “This is My beloved Son, listen to Him” (Mark 9:7 ESV). Yet, at this very

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

ANYTIME Worship Service
(to be available online prerecorded)

9:00 am &
11:00 am *Socially Responsible Services*

7:00 pm Bible Study - (regularly scheduled at
9:00 am; to be available
online livestream)

THIS WEEK

Wed., 2/17 Bible Study - POSTPONED ONE WEEK
(please join the livestream Ash Wednesday service)

moment what had been both a terrifying and blessed vision suddenly seems strangely ordinary and they see *Jesus only*.

As our lives are filled with all kinds of moments, both highs and lows, fears and joys - *Jesus only* is what shines through it all. Not only is He clothed in light but as the scriptures tell us this true Light became total darkness on the cross so that God’s love would shine into our hearts. In *Jesus only*, God fills our lives with the true blessing that make all things new! St. Paul puts it this way, “For 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” (2 Corinthians 4:6 ESV). *Jesus only* is the light that comes into and through our lives. Our prayer is simply that others would see *Jesus only* in our ordinary lives. While some of our days will be filled with bane and others blessing, *Jesus only* can show us how God is blessing others through you and me. While we will certainly know both love and the emptiness of when that love is no longer expressed, we will always have the assurance of *Jesus only* whose love for us has no end. Through your witness and mine, we pray that the world will see *Jesus only*. God fill you with His love and blessings that He brings us in *Jesus only*.

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SERVICES

Current regulations allow for 10% capacity, meaning few slots for each worship. If you plan to attend, please sign up early, preferably before 12:00 noon on Saturday. The registration link is in the electronic version of *The Messenger*.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

On Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 pm we will livestream an Ash Wednesday service. A message with the link will be sent out on Wednesday. During the service, there will be a time when we put ashes on our foreheads in the sign of a cross. You can make your own ash/oil mixture at home, or if you like you can pick some up at the church that will be made for home use. Please contact us at seouilc.volunteer@gmail.com with any questions.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Printed Lenten devotionals from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available at the church. Also, links to download devotion podcasts are in the electronic version of *The Messenger*.

ILC OFFERINGS RECORD FOR LOCAL TAXES

If you need a donations statement for local taxes, please let us know by sending an email to seouilc.church@gmail.com.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

Though we are not meeting in person, church operations still continue and to that end we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

If you are unable or do not wish to give electronically, you may hold your offerings until we resume our normal worship schedule.

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READINGS

February 14: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

OT	2 Kings 2:1-12
NT	2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6
Gospel	Mark 9:2-9

February 21: The First Sunday in Lent

OT	Genesis 22:1-18
NT	James 1:12-18
Gospel	Mark 1:9-15

