

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.



GATHERING

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome

Choir

This Little Light of Mine

Ken Berg

*This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm going to let it shine.
All through the night, I'm going to let it shine,*

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn 308

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Stanzas 1, 2, 6 – All St. 3 – Women St. 4 – Men St. 5 – Choir



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!</p> | <p>6 What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
for the day of your returning.</p> |
|--|--|

Apostolic 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. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

A reading from Exodus. ¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Hymn 834

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;
in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;
most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see
al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

A reading from Second Peter. ¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Choir sings the Acclamation, and all repeat it; Choir sings the Verse.



This is my^l Son, my Chosen, lis-^l ten to him! (Luke 9:35)

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

Hymn of the Day 316

Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in -
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ
4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by
5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and



glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the
car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the
deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
Ho - ly One says, "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

Nicene Creed With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *A brief silence.*

Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Stand

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

Sit

Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts

Choir

Moravian Carol: Morning Star

Arr. John Kemp

*Morning star, O cheering sight without you how dark the night.
Jesus mine, in me shine; in me shine, Jesus mine. Fill my heart with light divine.*

*Your glad beams, O morning star, guide the nations near and far.
You we love, Lord above; Lord above, you we love, our dear Savior, Son of God.*

*Morning star, my soul's true light! Come to end the dark of night.
Jesus mine, in me shine; in me shine, Jesus mine. Fill my heart with love divine.*

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

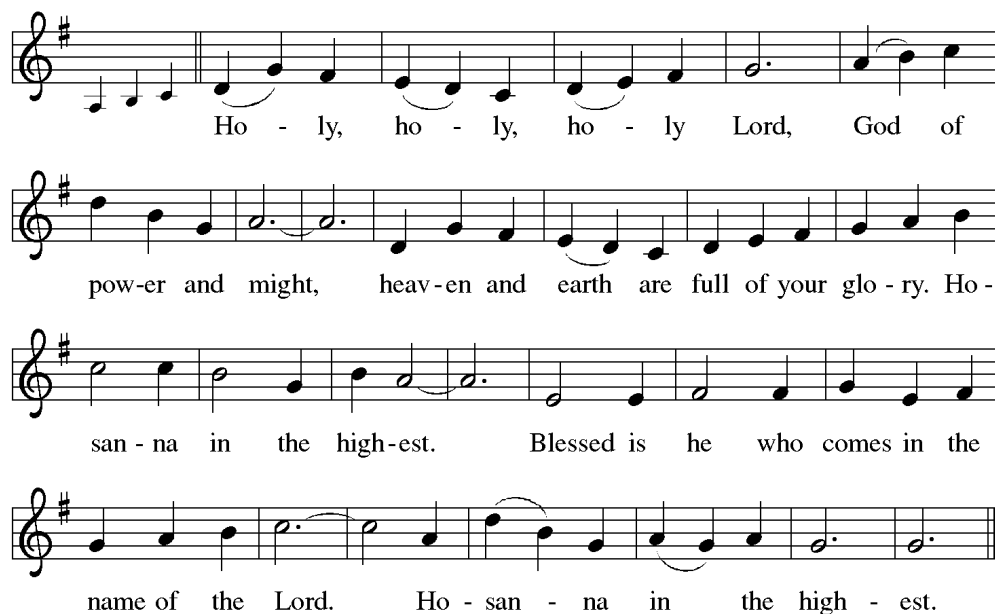
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Sit

Invitation to Communion

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.

Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray.



Lamb of God


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn 315

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;
your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.
Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs and bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,
 light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

Sit

Announcements

Dismissal Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

Prelude in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

*Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation
 in the fellowship hall following worship.*

Commemoration this Week

Wednesday, February 18 Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546 Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org.



What Goes Up

The law of gravity dictates that whatever goes up must come down. Even with its dazzling mountaintop revelation, the transfiguration story quickly reminds us that if Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, then not even God's beloved can escape death's inevitable pull. Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up the mountain, but very soon they will be on their way down again. Suddenly, Jesus is gloriously transformed before the three disciples; then, just as suddenly, Jesus speaks of his impending death.

The transfiguration is a story of both fulfillment and foretaste. The appearance of Moses and Elijah reminds us of Jesus' promise to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, during his sermon on another mountain (Matthew 5:17). The startling turn toward talk of his suffering and death gives us a foretaste of the "mountain" at Golgotha he has yet to climb.



For the church, coming down the Mount of Transfiguration leads directly into the season of Lent and a journey that draws out more fully for us the implications of baptism. For Jesus, his baptism by John at the Jordan was just the start of a journey to be fulfilled in all the ups and downs to come. This is how transformation tends to happen—not when we insist on playing it safe, but when we dare to enter more fully into life as it is. So, too, our baptism can be fulfilled only in the light of our mortality. God's voice on the mountaintop calls us not simply to behold God's beloved Son but also to follow where Jesus leads.

All this, however, is not meant to bring us down. Jesus' transfiguration offers a glimpse of an even bigger picture that includes both gravity and grace. It foreshadows what is to come: death—and resurrection. This promise of new life is a bright cloud that leads the church now, as it did the ancient Israelites, through the wilderness ahead.

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)