



Grace Lutheran Church

February 14, 2021

Last Sunday of Epiphany / Transfiguration of the Lord



The Festival of the **TRANSFIGURATION** of our **LORD**

Welcome!

There are some accounts in the Bible we should hear again and again and so the church sets aside this Sunday for one of those accounts. The word “transfiguration” simply means “a change in appearance.” It refers to the account in the Gospel for today when Jesus shined forth in all His heavenly glory as the Son of God.

Transfiguration Sunday ends the Epiphany season. When we next meet it will be the season of Lent, a time of reflection on our Savior’s suffering. So on this day, we say our last Alleluias until the Easter Resurrection and join in Peter’s cry, “It’s good that we are here!” For we know Jesus didn’t endure the cross because he was forced to but because He chose to!



Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace

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*Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
and
California Lutheran High School*



INVOCATION

We start with a reminder of God's baptismal claim on our lives.

L: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*

C: It is good for us to be here!

Mark 9:5

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8,9

L: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children.

C: It is good for us to be here!

L: But who of us deserves to be in his presence and to see his glory? The Bible makes it clear that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

L: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as God's only Son, full of grace and truth. Because of his blessed departure to death for all people, you are made his dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: It is good for us to be here!

OPENING HYMN

How Good Lord to Be Here (CW #95)

1 ♪ How good Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.

3 Fulfiller of the past
Promise of things to be,
We hail your body glorified
And our redemption see.

2 How good, Lord, to be here
Your beauty to behold,
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Your messengers of old.

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

♪ How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear the cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*On the holy
mountain God
said,
“This is my Son,
whom I
love.
Listen to him.”*

*Elijah’s departure is
glorious, but
nothing compared
to Jesus’.*

God’s Word

FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:1-12a

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

³The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.”

⁴Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.”

And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

⁵The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.



⁷Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

¹⁰“You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

¹¹As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹²Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 3:12- 4:2



*he saving Gospel of
Jesus Christ is more
glorious than the
law of Moses.*

¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

4 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia!

C: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!" (Mark 9:7b)

HYMN

Beautiful Savior (#369)

- 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!**

Text: *Münsterisch
Gesangbuch,*
Münster, 1677, abr.;
tr. Joseph A. Seiss,
1823–1904.

SERMON and GOSPEL LESSON

²After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

⁸Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

After the Gospel

M:
Gospel of the
C:
God!



This is the
Lord.
Thanks be to

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

L: In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

(from Hebrews 1:1)

**C: I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

L: The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

(from Hebrews 1:3)

C: 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 everlasting. Amen.

L: And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

(from the letter lesson today)

OFFERING

Our offerings, whether we leave them at the plate at the door or gather them by passing the plate or mailing them in or giving them online, are an act of worship. We respond to the glory of Christ and support the ministry of letting His light shine before others.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Throughout the prayer, when the Leader says, "Everlasting God..."
the congregation responds by saying, "great is Your glory!"*

LORD'S PRAYER

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.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.
C: Amen.