

Transfiguration Sunday
February 11, 2024

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for this week

We began this season in the Jordan River. At His baptism, Jesus heard His Father's glorious voice: "You are my Son, whom I love" (Mark 1:11). From that day, in word and deed, Jesus began to reveal more about Himself. He demonstrated the extent of His Divine authority and power and love. Yet, Jesus looked so normal, like an ordinary carpenter or your average rabbi or just another prophet. Today, on the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus gives us a glimpse of His true glory. As we see Him in His dazzling brilliance, the Father speaks again, this time to us: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

This final event prepares us for the journey of Lent where we will witness the most glorious work that Jesus would do when He came down from this mountain.

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes. For personal preparation for Communion, see Red Hymnal: p.156.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall. Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall. If you need special assistance for communion, please notify an usher and/or the pastor.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson

Ushers: Mike Jensen, Kurt Knurr

Pastor: Wayne Halldorson Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922

Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

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Facebook: facebook.com/GraceNearTheLake1

Prayer Requests: prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com / text to

520-236-9673

T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal earbuds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you assistance.



WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

388 Down from the Mount of Glory

CW 388 sts. 1-3



- 1 Down from the mount of glo ry came Je sus Christ, our Lord.
- 2 Trans fig ured, Christ, the low ly, stood ra-diant in the light,
- 3 Yet mark this glo ry hid den! See him the mount de-scend



Re - call the won-drous sto - ry, rich gem in sa - cred Word. light found in God-head sole - ly, for hu - man eyes too bright. and, by the Fa - ther bid - den, his will - ing foot-steps bend



A - gain your faith will view him in dou - ble glo - ry here; Then came a voice from heav - en, con-firmed what here we see; to seek hu - mil - i - a - tion in deep - est depths of woe,



the great - er hom - age due him will in your life ap - pear. the words "my Son" were giv - en to seal his de - i - ty. to suf - fer deg - ra - da - tion no mind can probe or know.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996 Tune: Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635

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Stand

We conclude this season of Epiphany here today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

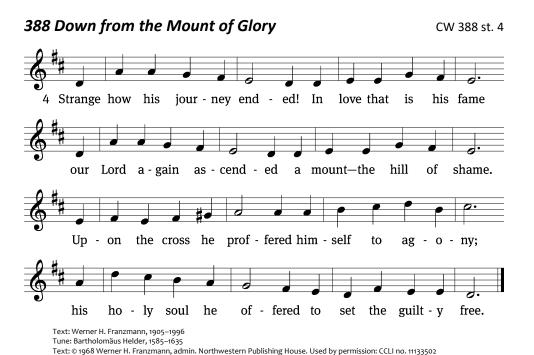
Amen.

Confession & Absolution

God invites us to come into His dazzling and glorious presence and worship Him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask Him to forgive us:

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have hidden from your glorious presence and wallowed in the darkness of my own sin and guilt.

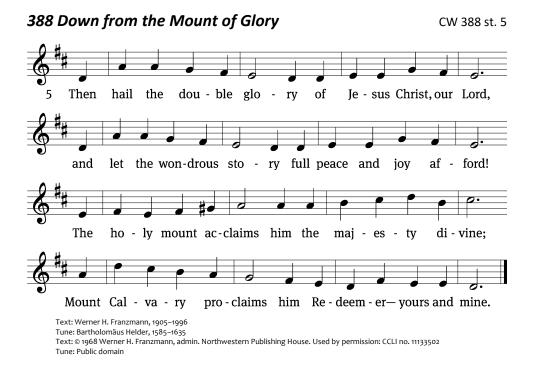
For all my sins I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



Tune: Public domain

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. God, in His wisdom, has planned and carried out our salvation. His glory covers us. We are His sons and daughters forever.



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Reading 2 Kings 2:1–12a

¹When 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.

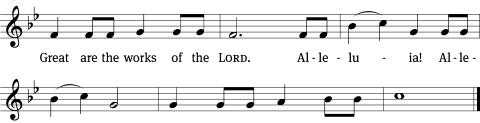
⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"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!"





are

the works

of

the

LORD.

Tone

lu



Great

Why do the nations / conspire and the peoples / plot in vain?

ia!

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a-/gainst the LORD

and against his A- / nointed. Refrain

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs; the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain." Refrain

I will proclaim the / LORD's decree:

He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your / Father."

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be-/ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

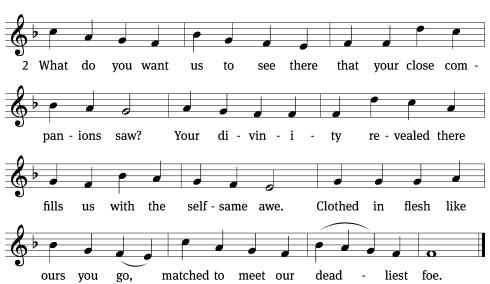
Verse of the Day

Mark 9:7

Alleluia. A cloud covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Alleluia.



CW 390 st. 2



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Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021

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FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-9

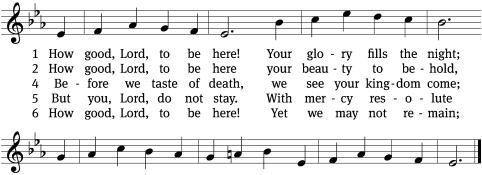
²After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were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



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 long to hold the vi-sion bright and make this hill our home. you leave this glo-rious hill to die—our per-fect sub-sti-tute. but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Sermon

Mark 9:7b "God's Simplest and Most Difficult Command:"

Nicene Creed

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Offering 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Transfiguration Dialogue

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

THE SACRAMENT

Preface

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed His glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which He has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By His incarnation, He became one with us.
By His perfect life, He fulfilled your holy will.
By His innocent death, He overcame hell.
By His rising from the grave, He opened heaven.

As members of this congregation who are united and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with Him and all His ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

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.

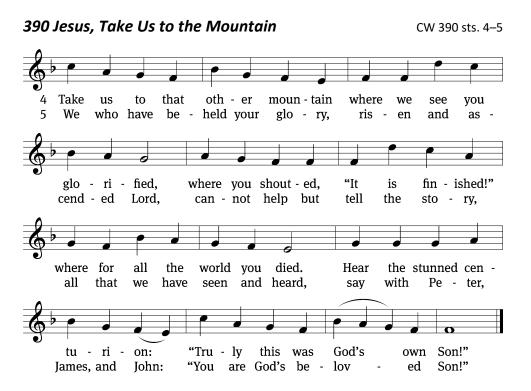
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

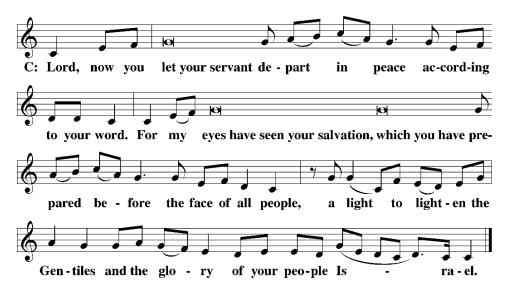
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**



Distribution

Grace Lutheran Church follows the practice of close communion. This means that all our members are in agreement with the teachings of our church body. We welcome members of our church synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to partake of the Lord's Supper with us today. We respectfully and lovingly ask that other visitors speak with our pastor after the service if there are any questions about this practice.

Song of Simeon



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; **His mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with your saving gifts. We pray that through Word and Sacrament you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

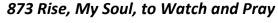
Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

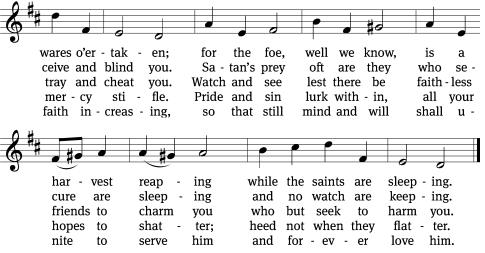
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.



CW 873





Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671–1718, abr.; (sts. 1, 3–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymnbook, 1907, alt.

Tune: adapt. William H. Monk, 1823–1889; Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, Dresden, 1694 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voters / Ladies of Grace / Ash Wednesday

Today there will be a Voter's Meeting (in place of the Council meeting / GMC) and the Ladies of Grace will also meet (fellowship hall) following worship.

Please keep in mind ASH WEDNESDAY service this week (no Genesis class this week) here at 6:00 pm.

Bible Classes

Please consider participating in one (or more) of our weekly classes – Genesis on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm / Revelation on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. The monthly Parables class on the last Friday of the month

(10:30 am at Grace) with the men's and women's lunch out to follow at 11:30 am.

Please note that this week (on February 7-8) both the Genesis and the Revelation classes will be cancelled, because Pastor and Rachel will be travelling to Houston for the Grow Conference which goes from Thursday to Friday (Feb. 8-9).

Mystery Quilt Weekend

Part 2 of Mystery Quilt Weekend is on February 16 & 17 at the GMC. Speak with Pam for more information. Bring a friend!

Bible Uncorked

Our next community outreach event (Bible Uncorked) will be held at Los Pinos Winery on Thursday, February 29 from 6 - 8 pm. Speak with Mike for more information. Be sure to personally invite a friend! (A sign up sheet for RSVP and invites are coming soon.)

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Today	11:00 am	Voter's Meeting (GMC)
Today	11:00 am	Ladies of Grace (Fellowship hall)
Feb. 14	6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Communion Service
Feb. 15	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy (GMC)
Feb. 15	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
Feb. 16	10am to 5	Mystery Quilt Weekend part 2 a
Feb. 17	9 am to 5	Mystery Quilt Weekend part 2 b
Feb. 18	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Lent 1 Worship
Feb. 21	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Feb. 22	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
Feb. 23	10:30 am	Parables Bible Class (Grace)
Feb. 23	11:30 am	Men's and Women's Lunch Out
Feb. 25	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Feb. 28	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Feb. 29	6 - 8 pm	Bible Uncorked (Los Pinos Winery)