



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](mailto:grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com)

## ***Church Information***

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Prayer Requests: [prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com](mailto: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 need 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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Tune: Public domain

*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.**

### ***388 Down from the Mount of Glory***

CW 388 st. 4

4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that is his fame  
our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed a mount—the hill of shame.  
Up - on the cross he prof - fered him - self to ag - o - ny;  
his ho - ly soul he of - fered to set the guilt - y free.

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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.**

### ***388 Down from the Mount of Glory***

CW 388 st. 5

5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry of Je - sus Christ, our Lord,  
and let the won-drous sto - ry full peace and joy af - ford!  
The ho - ly mount ac-claims him the maj - es - ty di - vine;  
Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er— yours and mine.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Down from the Mount of Glory'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '5' indicating the start of the fifth stanza. The music is written in a single treble clef line. The lyrics are: '5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, and let the won-drous sto - ry full peace and joy af - ford! The ho - ly mount ac-claims him the maj - es - ty di - vine; Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er— yours and mine.'

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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

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah 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.

<sup>3</sup>The 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.”

<sup>4</sup>Then 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.

<sup>5</sup>The 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.”

<sup>6</sup>Then 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.

<sup>7</sup>Fifty 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. <sup>8</sup>Elijah 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.

<sup>9</sup>When 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.

<sup>10</sup>“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.”

<sup>11</sup>As 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. <sup>12</sup>Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!”

## 2D Great Are the Works of the LORD

Psalm 2D

### Refrain

Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

### Tone

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



<sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>The 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. <sup>5</sup>For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For 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.**

**390 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain**

CW 390 st. 2

2 What do you want us to see there that your close com -  
pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there  
fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like  
ours you go, matched to meet our dead - liest foe.

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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

<sup>2</sup>After 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. <sup>3</sup>His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>Peter 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."  
<sup>6</sup>(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup>Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

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

<sup>9</sup>As 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.



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,  
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;  
 5 But you, Lord, do not stay. With mer - cy res - o - lute  
 6 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 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:

**390 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain**

CW 390 st. 3

3 What do you want us to hear there that your dear dis -  
ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en  
says of the in - car - nate Word: "Lis - ten, lis - ten,  
ev - 'ry - one; this is my be - lov - ed Son!"

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has a '3' above the first note. The second staff has a fermata over the final note. The third staff has a fermata over the final note. The fourth staff has a fermata over the final note and ends with a double bar line.

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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.**

### 390 *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*

CW 390 sts. 4-5



4 Take us to that oth - er moun - tain where we see you  
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -



glo - ri - fied, where you shout - ed, "It is fin - ished!"  
cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,



where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -  
all that we have seen and heard, say with Pe - ter,



tu - ri - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"  
James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"



## **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**



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

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.**

### ***873 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray***

CW 873



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; from your sleep a -  
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares lest a - sleep he  
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world with its lies de -  
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, lest with grace you  
5 But while watch - ing al - so pray to the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day un - a -  
find you; for in - deed no pains he spares to de -  
feat you lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled it be -  
tri - fle; let not self your thoughts con - trol nor God's  
ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, strength and



wares o'er - tak - en; for the foe, well we know, is a  
 ceive and blind you. Sa - tan's prey oft are they who se -  
 tray and cheat you. Watch and see lest there be faith - less  
 mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin lurk with - in, all your  
 faith in - creas - ing, so that still mind and will shall u -



har - vest reap - ing while the saints are sleep - ing.  
 cure are sleep - ing and no watch are keep - ing.  
 friends to charm you who but seek to harm you.  
 hopes to shat - ter; heed not when they flat - ter.  
 nite to serve him and for - ev - er love him.

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  
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**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	<u>Ash Wednesday Communion Service</u>
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	<u>Bible Uncorked</u> (Los Pinos Winery)