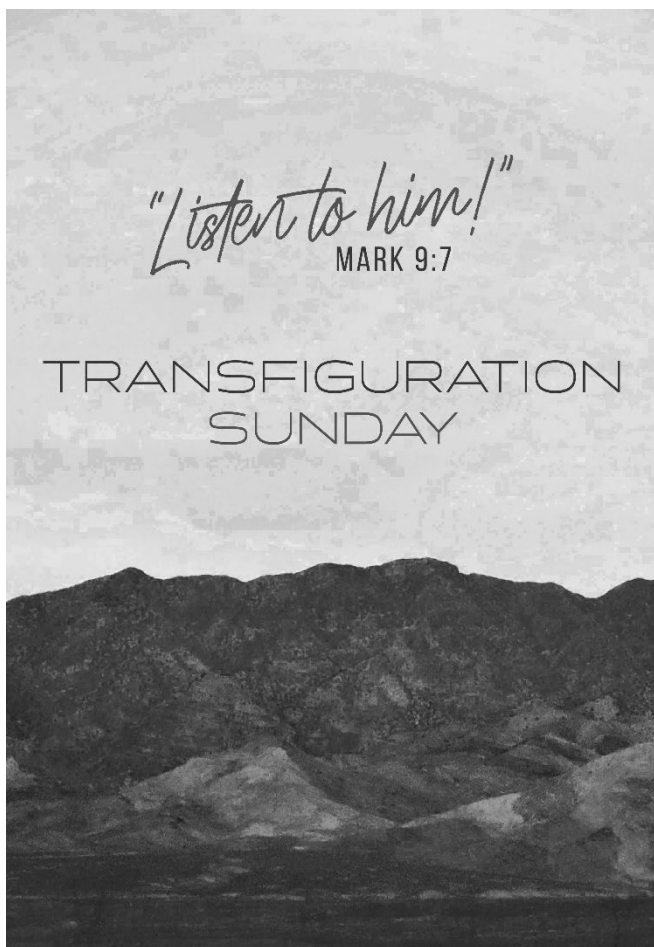


# The Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 11, 2024



**Faith Lutheran Church**

**Faith of a Child Learning Center**

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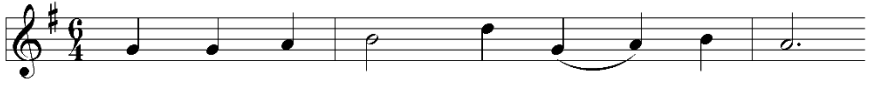
# OUR WORSHIP



## Liturgical Color

White: *The color of celebration and joy*

## O Christ, Our True and Only Light



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light,  
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace  
3 Oh, gent - ly call those gone a - stray  
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold;  
5 That they with us may ev - er - more



En - light - en those who sit in night;  
The souls now lost in er - ror's maze  
That they may find the sav - ing way!  
Re - call the wan - d'ers to your fold.  
Such grace with won - d'ring thanks a - dore



Let those a - far now hear your voice  
And all whom in their se - cret minds  
Let ev - 'ry con - science sore op - pressed  
U - nite all those who walk a - part;  
And end - less praise to you be giv'n



And in your fold with us re - joice.  
Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.  
In you find peace and heav'n - ly rest.  
Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart  
By all your Church in earth and heav'n.

## The Apostolic Greeting

**P** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**G** And also with you.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. 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.**

**P** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C** **Amen.**

## Prayer and Praise

**P** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -

ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

## The Prayer of the Day

**P** 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 his 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: A - men.

## The Word

**First Lesson** ..... 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. <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, “but do not speak of it.”

<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, "but do not speak of it."

<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 of 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 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!" And Elisha saw him no more.



## Psalm 2

### *Refrain*

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

### *Psalm tone*

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

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

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers  
gather together against the LORD\*  
and against his Anointed One. **Refrain**

The One enthroned in heaven laughs,\*  
the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger  
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,\*  
"I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:\*  
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 beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen. **Refrain****

**Second Lesson** ..... 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

<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 of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach 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 the glory of God in the face of Christ.

**The Verse of the Day**

**P** Alleluia. A voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him." Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**Gospel** ..... 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 enveloped 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.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## How Good, Lord, to Be Here

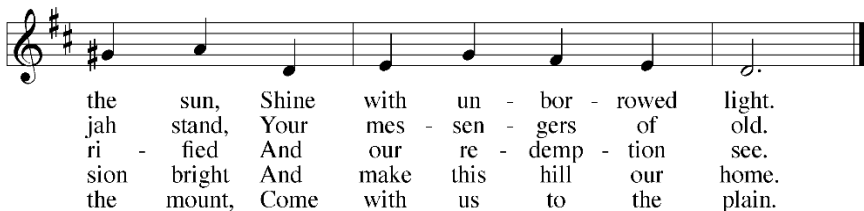


1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry  
2 How good, Lord, to be here Your beau - ty  
3 Ful - fill - er of the past, Prom - ise of  
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We see your  
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may



fills the night; Your face and gar - ments, like  
to be - hold, Where Mo - ses and E - li -  
things to be, We hail your bod - y glo -  
king - dom come; We long to hold the vi -  
not re - main; But since you bid us leave





the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
jah stand, Your mes - sen - gers of old.  
ri - fied And our re - demp - tion sec.  
sion bright And make this hill our home.  
the mount, Come with us to the plain.

## The Sermon

Text: Mark 9:2–9

### IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE

## The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

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.

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.

# The Offering Is Gathered

*(In case you didn't place your contribution in the offering plate before worship, it is still available after the service directly outside the entrance of the sanctuary.)*

# Thanksgiving

## The Prayer of the Church

### The Lord's Prayer *(spoken by all)*

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.

## Down from the Mount of Glory



1 Down from the mount of glo - ry Came Je - sus  
2 Trans - fig - ured, Christ, the low - ly, Stood ra - diant  
3 Yet mark this glo - ry hid - den! See him the  
4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that  
5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry Of Je - sus



Christ, our Lord. Re - call the won - drous sto - ry,  
in the light, Light found in God - head sole - ly,  
mount de - scend And, by the Fa - ther bid - den,  
is his fame Our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed  
Christ, our Lord, And let the won - drous sto - ry



Rich gem in sa - cred Word. A - gain your faith will  
For hu - man eyes too bright. Then came a voice from  
His will - ing foot - steps bend To seek hu - mil - i -  
A mount - the hill of shame. Up - on the cross he  
Full peace and joy af - ford! The ho - ly mount ac -



view him In dou - ble glo - ry here; The great - er  
heav - en, Con - firmed what here we see; The words "my  
a - tion In deep - est depths of woe, To suf - fer  
prof - fered Him - self to ag - o - ny; His ho - ly  
claims him The maj - es - ty di - vine; Mount Cal - va -



hom - age due him Will in your life ap - pear.  
Son" were giv - en To seal his de - i - ty.  
deg - ra - da - tion No mind can probe or know.  
soul he of - fered To set the guilt - y free.  
ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er—yours and mine.

## A Prayer

**P** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

# The Blessing

**P** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

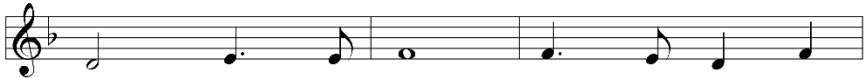


C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

# Go, My Children with My Blessing



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing,  
2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en,  
3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished,  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you




Ne - ver a - lone. Wak - ing, sleep - ing,  
At peace and pure. Here you learned how  
Clos - er to me; Grow in love and  
And give you peace; I the Lord will




I am with you; You are my own.  
much I love you, What I can cure.  
love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free.  
smile up - on you And give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; Here you  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here his  
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior,



made you mine for - ev - er. Go, my chil - dren,  
 touched him, saw his glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren,  
 ten - der com - fort stilled you. Go, my chil - dren,  
 Com - fort - er, and Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren;



with my bless - ing— You are my own.  
 sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
 fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.  
 I will keep you And give you peace.



## Divine Call Decision

Pastor Lidtke has made his decision concerning the divine call he received in January to serve the congregations of Mt. Sinai, Montrose, MI, and King of Kings, Frankenmuth, MI. He will inform the members of Faith about his decision following worship this morning.

## Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday is February 14. This year Faith and Bethlehem congregations are joining together for midweek worship throughout the season of Lent. Each Wednesday from February 14 through March 20, come either to Faith at 10:00 AM or to Bethlehem Lutheran at 6:00 PM. This year's Lenten theme is: "God On Trial."

## **Worship Time Change**

Considering the congregation's financial standing, Faith's Church Council has agreed that we can no longer afford to pay two pastors to meet Faith's ministry needs.

Pastor Grosnick will continue to preach weekly through the month of February. Beginning Sunday, March 3, Faith's worship service will begin a half hour later at 10:30 AM. This allows Pastor Lidtke to conduct worship at Bethlehem at 9:00 AM and then make the drive to Faith to conduct services.

## **Thanksgiving Celebration for Pastor Grosnick**

Pastor Grosnick's service to Faith congregation these last couple of years has been a blessing. As a way to thank him for his faithful service, the Church Council is planning for a celebration gathering following the worship service on February 25. We'll plan for a potluck meal that day. Please make plans to join us.



## **GRACE IS ..... UNFATHOMABLE AND GRASPABLE**

Whether we like to admit it or not, there are limits to the human ability to comprehend. For example, scientists and mathematicians hotly debate how many stars are in our own galaxy. Depending on the model they use, the total could be between 100 billion and 400 billion. That's a huge difference! And yet, both estimates are such big numbers that we lack the ability to visualize such a vast array of stars in any sort of comprehensible way.

Of course, there is someone who both knows and understands those numbers. He's the one who created each of those stars to begin with: our gracious Father in heaven. He can count those stars, and he can even detail the number of molecules in each one.

That which is beyond human comprehension is still child's play in the mind of the infinite, all-powerful Creator.

Perhaps thoughts like these are what prompted the apostle Paul to comment to the Christians in Corinth that no human being could really comprehend the mind and grace of God (1 Corinthians 2:7-11). God's grace is completely unfathomable to me. God continues to love me despite my sin? God, in his perfection, took on my sinfulness and, instead of declaring me guilty, declared me righteous? God wants to spend eternity with me, the worst of sinners? Such is God's grace, and who can understand it?!

That doesn't mean that God's grace is inaccessible to us. God chose to reveal his grace to make it something we can hold on to with rock-solid certainty. He took his unfathomable grace and wrapped it around his Son, Jesus. That's God's gospel message. We hold on to Christ not by our power to think or reason but by the power of the Spirit, who gives us faith to grasp God's grace. Certainly, Paul is not lying to the Colossian congregation when he says, "In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and *truly understood God's grace*" (1:6).

We shouldn't be surprised that we can understand God's grace because, despite his vastness, our God is good at making the infinite into something we can understand—Jesus. We can't truly comprehend the vastness of his gracious love, but by his Spirit, we can understand that he put his love into action for the sole purpose of rescuing us from the eternal consequences of sin. Only God's grace, and his grace alone, can remain beyond the depths of human mental capacity and still be held on to by little children so that they—and we—can know with certainty that we are his now and forever.