

From the cloud came a



*"This is my Son,
the Beloved;
listen to him!"*

MARK 9:7, NRSV

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 11, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

VISITORS

We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are with us.

OUR WORSHIP

Lutherans believe that the Gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners by his death and resurrection, but also the power by which God creates and strengthens faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the Gospel as the central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In preaching and Holy Communion, in specially selected Bible readings and songs, prayers and confessions, the liturgy points us to Jesus as our gracious Savior.

PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

*We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.
Amen*

ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW SETTING 1

Watchword: For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as servants for Jesus' sake. – 2 Corinthians 4:5 NRSV

PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

Confession and Absolution

INVOCATION

The people stand.

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The people stand.

Gathering

ENTRANCE HYMN *When Morning Gilds the Skies* vs.1,2,3,6 Green Book 546

Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center isle at this time.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

C=all voices; I=female voices; II=male voices

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **II** Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



The Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-12

L: A reading from 2 Kings.

A phenomenon of glory ends the era of Elijah, the great prophet of God. His work ends in a whirlwind.

¹Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, on the mountain you showed your glory in the transfiguration of your Son. Give us the vision to see beyond the turmoil of our world and to behold the king in all his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The people may be seated.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 50:1-6

The verses chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.



¹The Lord, the God of | gods, has spoken;* he has called the earth from the
rising of the sun | to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,* God reveals him- | self in glory.**

³Our God will come and will | not keep silence;* before him there is a consuming
flame, and round about him a | raging storm.

⁴**He calls the heavens and the earth | from above*
to witness the judgment | of his people.**

⁵“Gather before me my | loyal followers,*
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed | it with sacrifice.”

⁶**Let the heavens declare the rightness | of his cause;*
for God him- | self is judge.**

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

L: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

Jesus Christ shone on a mountaintop at his transfiguration. God now shines in our hearts to reveal the same Jesus Christ to us.

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as

Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE VERSE

The people please stand.



THE GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

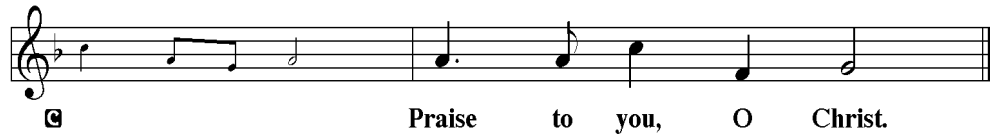
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th chapter.



²And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved

Son; listen to him.”⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON Pastor Tom Jacobson

The people may be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Beautiful Savior* Green Book 518

The people stand.

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (written by Pastor Sarah Weaver 2011)

P: God of love and comfort, we gather together to celebrate one of the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church. We give thanks for the opportunity – out of love and out of concern for our Christian brothers and sisters – to share a tangible gift to those in need, the prayer shawl. While we know that you are always present in our lives and that your love transcends all tragedy, illness and pain, we also know that sometimes a physical reminder can bring hope, healing and peace to someone who is crying out. We pray that these prayer shawls bring comfort to those who will receive them.

C: Oh God, open our eyes so that we might see, open our ears so that we might hear, and open our minds so that we might know who is in need of your healing power and presence. Open our hearts so that we might reach out to them.

P: Without even knowing who would receive it, this shawl was made specifically for the person who will receive it.

C: May they see the intricate love and care given to this shawl, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.

P: This shawl was made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

C: May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.

P: This shawl was made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

C: May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

P: This shawl was made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

C: May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.

P: This shawl was made to remind the recipient that they are part of this community.

C: May they feel touched by our love, moved by our guidance and held up by our support.

P: God of creation, redemption and sustaining grace, we praise you for the opportunity to take part in this ministry so that we might see a world beyond ours. We thank you for putting those in need on our hearts and in our minds so that we might fully live out your call to love and serve. We ask that you bless these shawls and those who will receive them. May they feel the love, comfort and peace of your presence. And may your light shine in them and be a beacon of the hope that is promised to all of us. May the power of the Holy Spirit live and breathe within each one of us, through these shawls and through the lives that they will touch.

C: Shower us all with your loving grace, O God. Amen.

THE 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



The Liturgy of Holy Communion

THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

OFFERING

Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Quiet music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.

Choir Anthem (10:30 only): "Jesus On the Mountain Peak"

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

The people stand.



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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.

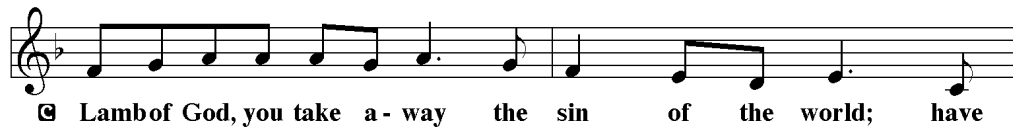
THE FRACTION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Happy are those who take refuge in him!

The people may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION

Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

Hymns during distribution: Green Book 89, 315, 223

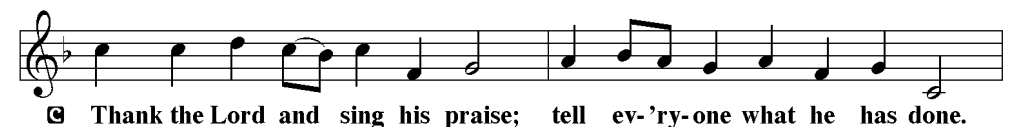
POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

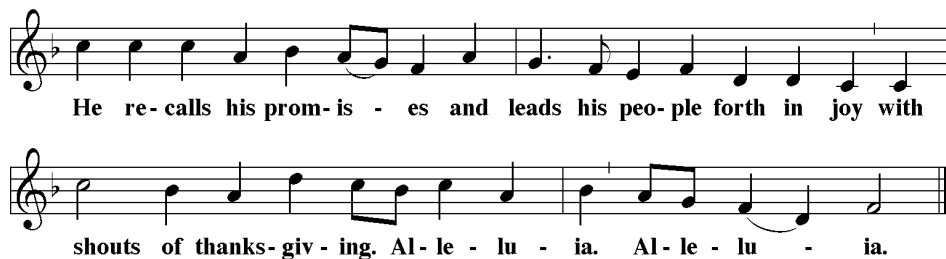
The people please stand.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks-giv - ing, Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

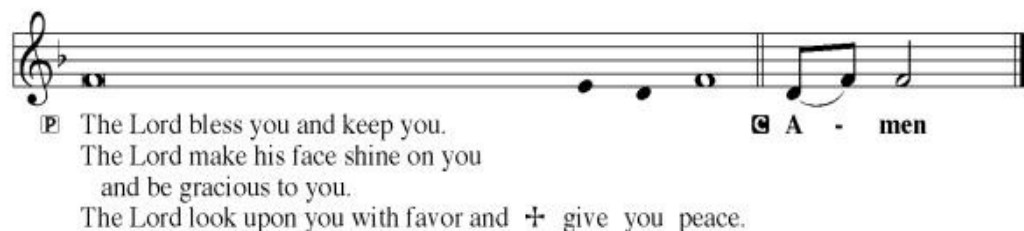
A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



Sending

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



☩ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

☩ A - men

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

Thy Strong Word

Green Book 233

THE POSTLUDE

We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen



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NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

COMMEMORATIONS:

As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

Feb. 14 Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs

Feb. 18 Martin Luther, renewer of the Church, 1546

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 1 LENT (February 18)

Genesis 9:8-17

1 Peter 3:18-22

Psalms 25:1-10

Mark 1:9-15