

# Grace Lutheran Church

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## Transforming Journey

Only a week before today's gospel reading begins, Jesus tells his disciples that he must suffer, die, and be raised. Peter is shocked that Jesus would even think something like that. He rebukes Jesus: "God forbid it, Lord!" Jesus responds to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Matt. 16:22-23).

Six days later, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain where they encounter God's voice and Jesus transfigured with God's glory. Peter moves from being a stumbling block one week to a witness of Jesus' transfiguration the next. Jesus doesn't write Peter off when he doesn't understand the depth of Jesus' mission. Instead, Jesus gives Peter an experience of moving from denier to witness—from Good Friday to Easter before it actually happens!

Later in Matthew's gospel, after Jesus is arrested, Peter three times denies that he even knows Jesus (Matt. 26:69-75). But Jesus doesn't write Peter off. After his resurrection, Jesus will meet Peter and the other disciples in Galilee to entrust his ministry to them.

Jesus practices what he preaches—forgiveness. Jesus embodies what he preaches as he takes our sin upon himself on the cross in order to free us and raise us up. He is God's beloved Son. We are to listen to him because he is God's "I love you" in the flesh.

Jesus doesn't write you, or anyone else, off either. Jesus still embodies forgiveness in bread, wine, and the words, "Given and shed for you." As Jesus took Peter from the Good Friday of his sin to the mountaintop of Easter forgiveness, may Jesus take you from death to life in holy communion today.

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### BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

# Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 26, 2017

*The season of Epiphany begins January 6<sup>th</sup> (the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.*

***Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.***

## Pre- Service Music

## Welcome/Worship Instructions

*Stand as you are able.*

## Gathering Hymn

*Gather Us In*

ELW 532 (red book)

## Greeting

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

☑ **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray . . . O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children.

☑ **Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Sit*

## First Reading

**Exodus 24:12-18**

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

☞ A reading from **Exodus:**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

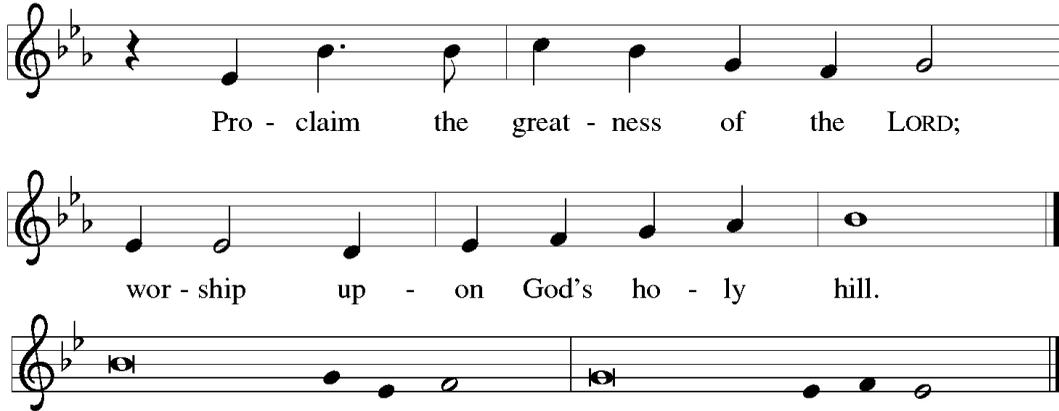
<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a

devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

☐ God, we thank you for your Word,

☑ **the story of your grace.**

### Psalm 99



Pro - claim the great - ness of the LORD;  
wor - ship up - on God's ho - ly hill.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king; let the | people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let | the earth shake.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD, | great in Zion,  
is high a- | bove all peoples.**

<sup>3</sup>Let them confess God's name, which is | great and awesome;  
God is the | Holy One.

<sup>4</sup>**O mighty king, lover of justice, you have es- | tablished equity;  
you have executed justice and righteous- | ness in Jacob. ☐**

<sup>5</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down be- | fore God's footstool;  
God is the | Holy One.

<sup>6</sup>**Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your | name, O LORD,**

**they called upon you, and you | answered them,**

<sup>7</sup>you spoke to them out of the pil- | lar of cloud;  
they kept your testimonies and the decree | that you gave them.

<sup>8</sup>**O LORD our God, you answered | them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their | evil deeds.**

<sup>9</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's | holy hill;  
for the LORD our God is the | Holy One. ☐

## Second Reading

## 2 Peter 1:16-21

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

### **A** A reading from **2 Peter**:

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

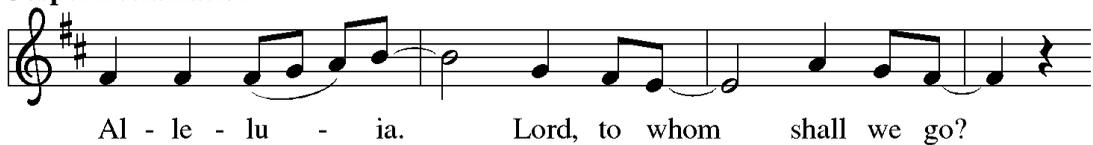
<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**L** God, we thank you for your Word,

**G** the story of your grace.

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel Reading

## Matthew 17:1-9

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to his disciples in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

**P** The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son,

the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”<sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.<sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.”<sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

### **Children’s Message/Children’s Church**

*All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message.*

### **Message**

*Silence for reflection*

**Song of the Day**

*Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair*

**ELW 316** (red book)

*Kneel or sit as able.*

### **Prayers**

☐ Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God’s justice, peace, and healing.

*A brief silence.*

☐ God of Moses, you revealed your glory on Mount Sinai. Reveal your glory through missionaries and campus ministries. Shine your light through their acts of caring, justice, and mercy. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Christ United Church in Dewitt, Freeport United Methodist Church in Freeport; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ God of Eve, you create humankind in your image. Cultivate in us a passion for your good creation. Transform our daily routines so that our stewardship reveals your image. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ God of David, you equip shepherds to care for your people. Where leaders rule by fear, transform their hearts with compassion and mercy. Send advocates for peace. We pray for your justice in every land. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ God of Naomi, you care for the widow. Be with all who mourn. Connect children in foster care with loving families. Protect refugees. Heal the sick and strengthen caretakers. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Danny Gillons, Mattea Markwart, Angela Kuhlman, Kaylee and Mattea Markwart, Norm Ward, Hope and Corinna Palmer, Victoria Steadman, Tim Lowe, Debra Wood, George Ulrich Jr, Gladys Bishop, Mary Jo Wittrock, and Beulah.* Lord, in your

mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of Zechariah, you invite us to worship. Teach us to sing your praise in all places and in all circumstances. Embolden us to proclaim the joy of your faithfulness with our whole being. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of Lazarus, you resurrect the dead. Deepen our trust in the resurrection promise. Grant us peace as we grapple with what it means to die and live in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Stand as you are able*

### Sharing the Peace of God

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

**C And also with you.**

*(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)*

*Sit*

### Offering of Gifts and Music

*Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.*

*Stand as you are able.*

### Offering Song

### *Create in Me*

ELW 187 (red book)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### Offering Prayer

**A** Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

**C** Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Great Thanksgiving

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

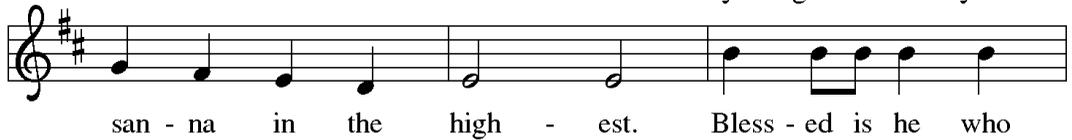
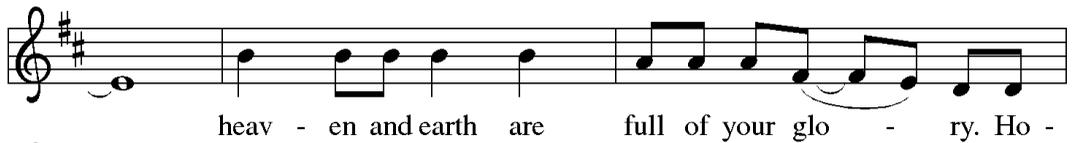
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



### **Eucharistic Prayer**

☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

☑ **We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.**

☐ 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☐ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

☑ **We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine.**

☐ May we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

☑ **To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

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

☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

☐ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

### *Communion at Grace*

*All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.*

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

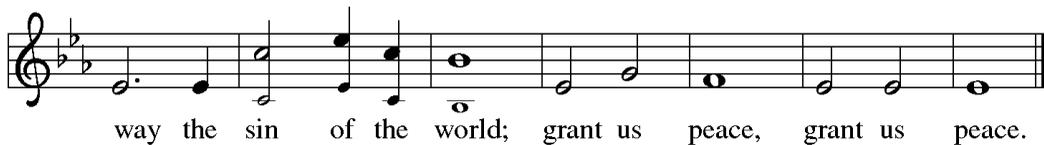
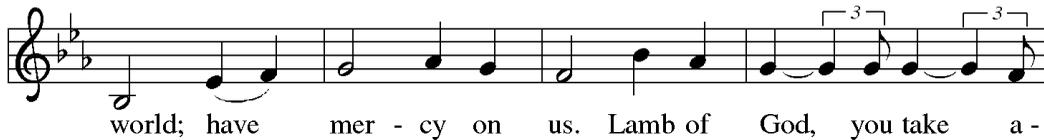
✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

*Sit*

### *Lamb of God*





*What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

**ELW 742** (red book)

*Taste and See*

**ELW 493**

*Now We Remain*

**ELW 500**

*Stand*

### **Prayer after Communion**

**A** Let us pray . . . O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure.

**G** Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

### **Congregational Announcements**

#### **Blessing**

**P** The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the  $\text{†}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**G** Amen.

*All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.*

**Sending Song**

*Christ Be Our Light*

**ELW 715** (red book)

#### **Dismissal**

**A** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 88

Weekly Giving: \$2,243.00

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, elbow macaroni and saltine crackers.

**Kitchen announcement** - In order to be in compliance with our current food license every first Sunday of the month the kitchen refrigerator will be cleaned out of all food items that don't meet our food license criteria. These include items that are brought from home for pot lucks etc. and left. Please make note of this so we can avoid any violations. Any questions, see Tim Schoessel.

**Pasty Week** – coming up March 16-18. This is a reminder, if you pledged to help with dough making on the 16<sup>th</sup>, meat cutting on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and/or making/baking on the 18<sup>th</sup>. If you purchased pasties, you can pick them up on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:45 am. Thanks to all those who volunteered. Your efforts will help with the cost of the new carpet for the church.

**Ash Wednesday Service**, Wednesday, March 1, will begin at 7:00 pm. This service includes the imposition of ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion. Ash Wednesday begins the season of repentance – Lent.

**Transition Team** meets next Sunday after late service. They are diligent in their work and could use your prayers of support.

## Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00am
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
<b>Lector</b>	John Burdick	Sandy Mosteller
<b>Communion Server</b>	Melissa Patton	Mark Anton
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Gavin Patton	Emmalee Peck
<b>Usher</b>	Dan & Grayson Patton	Mark Anton, Sandy Mosteller Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Mark/Jana Bishop	Ingrid Morgan, Carla Neil
<b>Children's Church</b>	n/a	Tom/Cheryl Drumm
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Chris Bush, Lisa Golnek	

### Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 5, 2017

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Steve Kaiser	Traci Wales
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Vickey Argo
<b>Lector</b>	Carl Schoessel	Carla Neil
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jana Bishop	Diane Neeb
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Grayson Patton	Mark Anton
<b>Usher</b>	Mark/Jana Bishop	Gary/Lisa Golnek Doug/Diane Neeb
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Jack/Carol Vos	Eve Wright
<b>Children's Church</b>	n/a	Tom, Hope & Emma Peck
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Vicky Argo, Kay Howell	

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

<b>Today, February 26</b>	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Children's Church 10:45 am
<b>Wednesday, March 1</b>	VBS Planning 5:30 – 6:30 pm Prayer Group 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
<b>Thursday, March 2</b>	Clapper Kids bell choir 3:45-5:00 pm Grace Notes adult bell choir 5:45-7:00 pm Grace Choir 7:15 pm
<b>Sunday, March 5</b>	Transition Team 12:30 pm