

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

**March 3, 2019**

**Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
Transfiguration of our Lord**

## Reveling in Joy

The story of Jesus' transfiguration in today's gospel stands at the threshold of Lent. Here we encounter the first shadows of Gethsemane in the drowsy disciples and catch the first echoes of the walk toward Golgotha in Jesus' footsteps ascending the mountain. Eight days before this climb, Jesus told his disciples of his resolve to face suffering, rejection, and death in Jerusalem before being raised on the third day. His words may twinge our hearts with pain for what is coming.

Yet, this moment on the mountaintop is filled not with sadness but with joy. In his obedience to the will of God, Jesus evokes the overwhelming pleasure of his Father. His appearance breaks forth with all the glory of God, shining and dazzling. God's chosen servants, Moses, the great lawgiver, and Elijah, the great prophet, appear. They, too, are filled with words of awe at what Jesus is about to do. The disciples who are present there are overcome with wonder and long to stay in this place with their Lord. The voice from the cloud erupts with pride as God revels in the joy Jesus has inspired: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (Luke 9:35).

As we prepare to begin Lent, today's worship offers a moment for those assembled to revel in this joy too. We are invited to walk to the mountaintop with the disciples at Jesus' side, to listen for the testimony regarding Christ in the law and the prophets, and to hear God's affirmation. Here we are invited to experience love and grace flowing freely from our transfigured Lord and to rest a while. Going forward from this time, we can take with us hope, strength, faith, and awe as we settle into the long journey of Lent.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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### BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

## Transfiguration of our Lord

March 3, 2019

*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

*Arise in body or spirit*

### Gathering Hymn

*Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

ELW 318 (red book)

### Greeting

- ☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

### Hymn of Praise

*Drawn to the Light*

ELW 593

### Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray ... Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

☑ Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

## First Reading

Exodus 34:29-35

*Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.*

### ☐ A reading from **Exodus**:

<sup>29</sup>Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup>but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

☐ Lord God, your word is a lamp to our feet,

☑ a light to our path.

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

## Psalm 99

<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 before 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 pillar 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. 

## Second Reading

## 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

*In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.*

### A reading from 2 Corinthians:

<sup>12</sup>Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <sup>16</sup>but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

 Lord God, your word is a lamp to our feet,

 a light to our path.

*Arise in body or spirit*



## Message

*Silence for reflection*

*Arise in body or spirit*

## Song of the Day

*Oh, Wonderous Image, Vision Fair*

ELW 316

*Kneel or sit as able.*

## Prayers

**A** United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** We pray for the church. Open us to listen to your word and to do your will. Direct us in paths of faithful service that reflect your love. Empower our leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne, David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, Messiah Lutheran Church of Bay City, Woodgrove Brethren Christian Parish of Woodland; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.*

**A** Radiant God,

**G** **let your light shine upon us.**

**A** For the earth, your beloved creation and our fragile home; for mountains and prairies; for cities and wilderness areas. Renew places we have neglected or misused. Where natural disasters have altered the land, help us to honor nature's healing.

**A** Radiant God,

**G** **let your light shine upon us.**

**A** For the nations. Shine the light of truth into world relationships hindered by mistrust or misunderstanding. Bring freedom and stability to all nations. Shelter those who have been displaced by war, famine, or natural disaster. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military including: *Zack Green (Mikolajczyks), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks), Brady Rudesill (Hansen), and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls).*

**A** Radiant God,

**G** **let your light shine upon us.**

**A** For those in need. Free those who struggle with shame or guilt. Bring clarity to those whose judgment is clouded by fear. Comfort those who grieve, and heal the sick, *including Doris Allering, Vern Allering, Jamie Coplin, Vivian, Dee DeFields, Matthew Downing, Karl Golnek, Nikki Haddix, Delmer Hansen, Mary Jane Hayner, Doug Hensley, Elsie Mellow, Kim Ogden, Kathy Ploude, Kallie Triick, George Ulrich Jr.,*

**A** Radiant God,  
**G** **let your light shine upon us.**

**A** For this assembly. Deepen our faith and understanding. Guide our ministries of hospitality and outreach. Renew us in the baptismal promise to care for others and the world you have made.  
*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Radiant God,  
**G** **let your light shine upon us.**

**A** With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Inspire us by their example and bring us with them into the eternal light of your presence.

**A** Radiant God,  
**G** **let your light shine upon us.**

**P** Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**G** **Amen.**

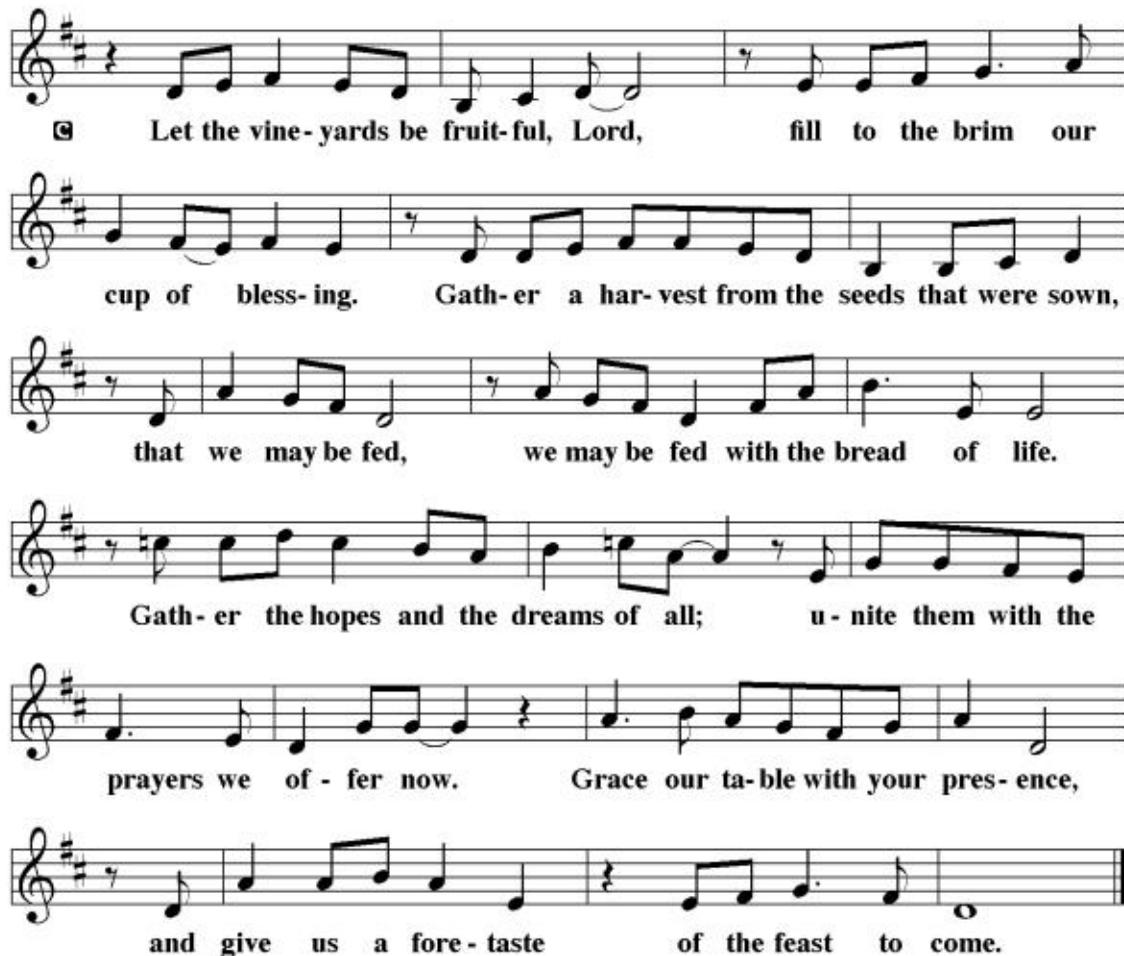
*Sit*

### **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*

*Arise in body or spirit*

## Offering Song



**☐** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, 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, 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.

## Offering Prayer

- ☐** Let us pray . . . God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.  
**☑** You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen

*Arise in body or spirit*

## Sharing the Peace of God

- ☐** The peace of Christ be with you.  
**☑** And also with you.

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

## Great Thanksgiving

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, almighty and ever living God. Sharing our life, Christ lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

## Eucharistic Prayer

- Ⓟ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
- Ⓞ **Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.**
- Ⓟ Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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 mystery of faith.



- ☐ With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.



- ☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Let your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.



- ☐ All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



### 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.  
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

### *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.

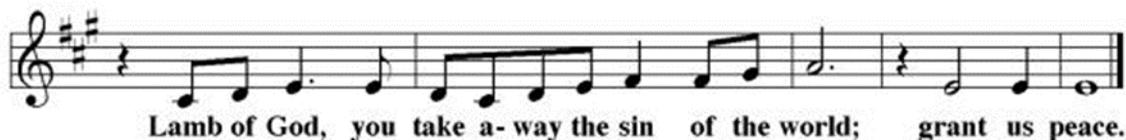
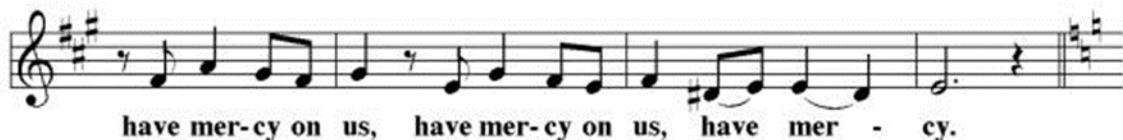
✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ 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.



*This Little Light of Mine  
Beautiful Savior  
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW 677  
ELW 838  
ELW 815

### **Sending of Communion**

- A** Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

- A** O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
- C** **You are our dearest treasure. 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 Mission Minutes**

*Arise in body or spirit*

### **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 ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- C** **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**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

**ELW 671**

**Dismissal**

- A** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Week at a Glance****Sunday, March 3**

Worship Services at 8 am &amp; 10:45 am

**Monday, March 4**

Social Activities Mtg 6:30 pm

**Tuesday, March 5**

Executive Mtg 6 pm

**Wednesday, March 6**

Ash Wednesday Dinner – 6 pm

**Thursday, March 7**

Lenten Service – 7 pm

Clapper Kids 3:45

Grace Notes 5:45

**Today's Worship Leaders**

	8:00 am	10:45 am
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
<b>Cantor</b>	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
<b>Lector</b>	Chis Bush	Gwen Hansen
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jana Bishop	Diane Neeb
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Mark Anton	Volunteer
<b>Usher</b>	Mark & Jana Bishop	Doug & Diane Neeb
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Mark & Jana Bishop	Eve Wright & Jeanette Markwart
<b>Children's Church</b>		
<b>Table Guild</b>	Laura Scheck	
<b>Bread Maker</b>	Deb Wilke	

**Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 10, 2019**

	8:00 am	10:45 am
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Hope Peck	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Pastor Ken	Vickey Argo
<b>Lector</b>	Emma Peck	Carol Morgan
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jan Schreiner	Laura Scheck
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Volunteer	Lance Ogden
<b>Usher</b>	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Joe Longcor / Gwen Hansen
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Laura Scheck / Kim Domke
<b>Children's Church</b>		Phil and Amy Poholski
<b>Table Guild</b>	Laura Scheck	
<b>Bread Maker</b>	Deb Wilke	

## Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 52 Weekly Giving: \$2,644.31 Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

**Adult Forum** will meet today at 9:30 and the focus will be *Dangerous Times*. Next week begins the new member class, please join us.

**Social Activities** Mtg tomorrow at 6:30 pm.

**Executive Mtg** Tuesday at 6 pm.

**Ash Wednesday** – Join us for dinner at 6 pm and our first Lenten Service following at 7 pm.

**Praising God with Puppets.** If you are interested in renewing our puppet ministry, please contact Chris Bush.

**Mutual Ministry is having an opportunity for you to discuss any topic with them on March 10, 2019 at 9:30 am.** If there is a ministry concern, please contact Brenda Teegardin. Brenda is our member of the Mutual Ministry Committee that is highlighted this week and can be reached by a phone call or a text message at 616.560.5910.

**Pasties... Coming to give you enjoyment.** We will put them together for a pickup on March 23, 2019. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the Gathering Area for workers and for ordering.

**Want to be added to the email Prayer Chain?** Contact Jane Secor [secorje@gmail.com](mailto:secorje@gmail.com).

**Spring Cleaning Day** here at Grace Lutheran Church is Saturday, March 16. Please sign up in the Gathering area to help give Grace a good spring cleaning!

**New Member Class** will begin on Sunday, 10 March 2019. This class will study Luther's Small Catechism and take place during the Adult Forum hour. All members are welcome to attend, as it is good for us to remind ourselves of God's grace revealed through the gift of Holy Communion, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Apostles' Creed and other materials. If you are interested in joining the body of Christ here at Grace, please contact Pastor Ken. The class will meet each week until April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Beauty & The Beast**, March 16 at 2:00 pm. The Social Activities committee invites you to sign up for the Hastings High School production of this favorite. Cost for tickets are \$10.00 for general admission and \$5.00 for senior citizens and students. **Today is the last day to sign up.**

**Family Promise Brunch** – March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please see sign up sheet in the Gathering Area to contribute food and let us know if you plan to attend!

**Noisy Offering** will be collected next Sunday!