

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 19, 2023

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 19, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Opening Sentences

- P** The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

- A** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

- P** Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.
- C** **We have seen Christ’s light, the light from God is Jesus.**

- A** Jesus said, “I am the light of the world....”
- C** **Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”**

Gathering Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

- A** 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.
- C** **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.**

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**:

¹²The 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.”

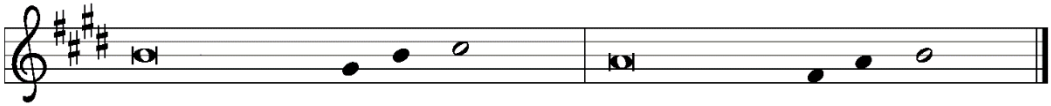
¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The 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. ¹⁷Now 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. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 2



Refrain



You are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

¹Why are the nations | in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

²**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot together,
against the LORD and against the | LORD's anointed?**

³"Let us break their | yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their | bonds from us."

⁴**God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;
the LORD holds them | in derision.** ☒

⁵Then in wrath God | speaks to them,
and in rage fills | them with terror.

⁶**"As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king
upon Zion, my | holy mountain."**

⁷Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you.

⁸**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.** ☒

⁹You shall crush them with an | iron rod
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery."

¹⁰**And now, you | kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

¹¹Submit to the | LORD with fear,
and with trembling | bow in worship;

¹²**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden | blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!** ☒

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 reading from **2 Peter**:

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For 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." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So 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. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil." The score ends with a double bar line.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then 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.” ⁵While 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!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As 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.**

Children's Time

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. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

A Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Alpena; Woodland United Methodist; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Radiant God,

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

A Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Radiant God,

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

A Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor and local leaders, our governor and state legislators, our president and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Radiant God,

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

A Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Cherie Clements, Victor Crowder, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Henry Heil, Cheryl Hills, David Hills, Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), The Family of Joanne*

Hudson, Mike Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Kinsley McManaway, Walter McManaway, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Jane Secor, Bob Sills, Theresa Strefling, Brendon Thomet, Al Throop, Maryellen Wammock, The Family of Jan Wander, Erika Wood, and Kathy. Radiant God,

☞ Let your light shine upon us.

Ⓐ Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Radiant God,

☞ Let your light shine upon us.

Ⓐ Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Radiant God,

☞ Let your light shine upon us.

Ⓟ We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

☞ Amen.

Arise in body or spirit.

Offertory

We Are an Offering

ELW 692

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

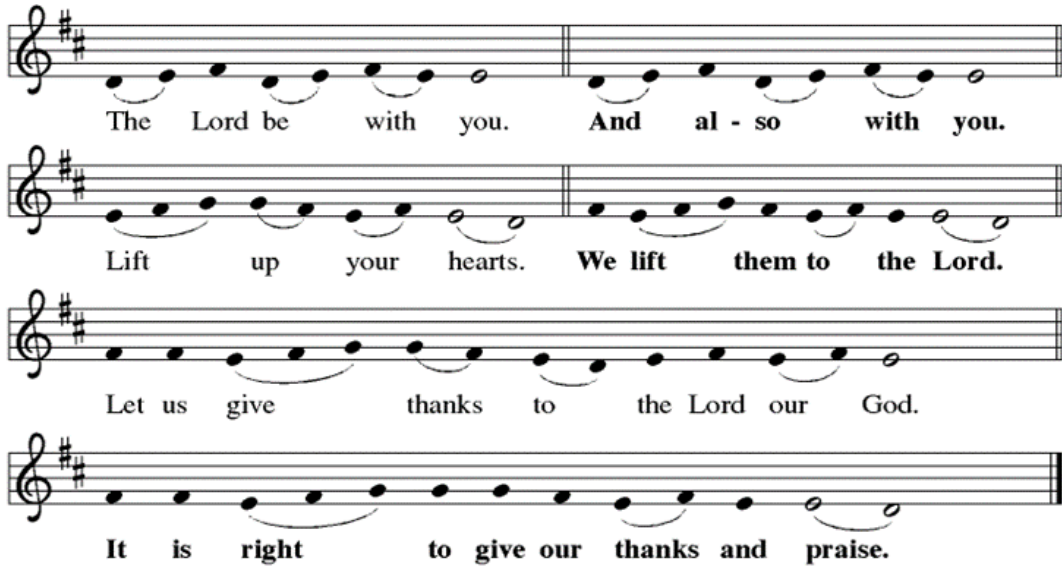
Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ 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**

Sharing the Peace of God

- Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

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 our thanks and praise.

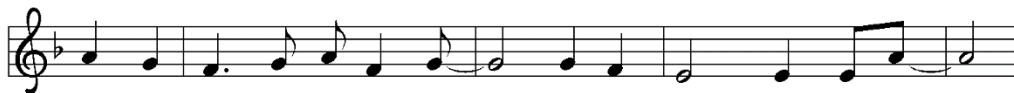
- Ⓟ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved 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:

You Are Holy

ELW Page 525



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
 Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
 Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Table 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.
- ☒ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- Ⓟ 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. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- Ⓟ 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. Come, Holy Spirit.**
- Ⓟ All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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.
- ☒ **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 *pouring chalice*. Take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Assisting Minister. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.
- ✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.
- ✠ **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 Pastor.

Communion

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*

**ELW 815
ELW 492**

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
- ☑ **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.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- Ⓟ 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.
- ☑ **Amen**

Sending Song

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW 671

Dismissal

- Ⓐ Go in peace. Be light for the world.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Paul Kuhlman
Cantor – Mary Kuhlman
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship –Freedlund Family

A New, Old Covenant

To his disciples and followers, Jesus must have seemed like someone wholly new and unique. His wisdom and power amazed them and left them wondering about his new teachings and extraordinary authority. As Peter, James, and John join Jesus on the mountain, they see yet another new thing as Jesus is transfigured before them. This experience, however, is not disconnected from God's past works: Jesus is accompanied by Moses and Elijah, and the disciples hear the voice of God. Jesus' transfiguration is a new part of the old story of God creating life in the world. As they descend, Jesus points ahead to another unprecedented experience that is to come: his death and resurrection. Change is wrapped up in God's continuity.

Humans are challenged by change, which seems to be even more present in a world defined by instant-communication channels and headline news. Change is particularly difficult when new ideas or experiences upend our long-held beliefs about the world around us. Change can be even more difficult when such experiences push us to rethink what we believe about God. It is easier to hunker down in the comfort of what we have always known than to admit we are wrong and work to think and live differently.

The amazing thing about God's story is that it has always encompassed all of who we are and all of the change we have experienced or ever will. God's grace gathers up everything from the beginning of creation to the promised heavenly feast, and every broken and blessed bit in between, each new covenant consistent with the old. When we gather in confession, we admit that we have been wrong, and we are blessed into newness by the forgiveness found in the words of absolution. The font and table further remind us that God makes all things new, and that God's continuity holds grace-filled space for our beloved transformation.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 60	Views: 218
Weekly Giving: \$5,515.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Noisy Offering - Barry County Cares: \$32.46	
Helping Hands: \$50.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$15,115.65	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 400.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding: \$14,715.65	

Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday. Join us for a breakfast meal beginning at 6:30 and WORSHIP at 7:15. A sign-up sheet is located in the Gathering Area. Proceeds from the meal will benefit American Cancer Society RELAY FOR LIFE. If you cannot sign up, please call the office at 269.945.9414, or email parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.

Celebrate Recovery Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry that gives people the resources and relationships to help find a new way of living. This ministry is for anyone struggling with past or current hurts, habits, or hang-ups, whether they are affecting their own life, or the lives of those around them. Grace is excited to host a Celebrate Recovery group every Friday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in knowing more, please call 269.391.3080.

Adult Forum studies the Psalms in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Pizza and Game Night on Saturday, February 25th. We begin with eating some pizza at 5:00 pm. If you do not want pizza, arrive at 5:30 for some games. There is a sign-up sheet so that we can have enough pizza for everyone.

The youth are going tubing at Cannonsburg Ski on February 25th. Please sign up by Sunday, February 19th. We hope that you are able to come out and enjoy this winter season with friends who are always welcoming and friendly. Arrive at church by 12:45 or meet up at Cannonsburg at 1:30. Tubing starts at 2:00 followed by Pizza at church at 5:00 p.m.

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans. Please pray that the youth that are part of Grace and our larger community, might consider going to this fantastic experience. The speakers, worship, fellowship, and service opportunities express the Christian body at its' best.

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are blessed to be ones who enjoy being transformed by God's grace and love.

Our first phase of the *Lifting Up* campaign of raising \$25,000.00 will center on replenishing borrowed funds from the shortfall of our budget, as we keep in mind planning for the replacement of the HVAC that services the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in joining the Congregation Council in implementing *Lifting Up*.

Save the Date – *The Wizard of Oz* - March 18th, 2:00 p.m. at the Hastings Performing Arts Center at Hastings High School. Tickets are \$12 general admission and Students are \$6. Please place cash or check in an envelope provided on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and leave on Brenda's desk; make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church. If carpooling, meet at Grace Lutheran Church by 1pm to leave Church by 1:15pm, otherwise, meet at the HPAC at 1:30pm. After the play, those interested can meet at Applebee's for food & fellowship (everyone pays their own way for both the play & food/meal). Questions? Please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216. Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, March 5th.

Lenten devotionals entitled *The JOY of SALVATION* are available in the Gathering Area thanks to the Community Outreach Committee.

Pasty Sale will be on April 1st. No foolin'! Unbaked are \$7.00 and Baked are \$8.00 each. Proceeds go to the **Helping Hands fund**. Orders are due on or before Thursday, March 23.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th, 2023. Don't forget to spring your clocks forward.

Mission Endowment Fund Unfortunately, with the downward trend, our Mission Endowment Fund lost money this year so there will be no disbursements made.