

Faith Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 14, 2021
Transfiguration of Our Lord



Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most Merciful God,

you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.**

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;**

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of ☩ Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice

and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #314 (*verses 1 & 2*)

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

Opening Prayer

Please join me in the Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, the magnificent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts.

Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illuminate the world with your image, through Jesus

**Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

- 2 Kings 2:1-12 *Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*
- Psalm 50:1-6 *Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)*
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 *God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Grace, Mercy, and Peace from God our Father and our Lord and savior Jesus Christ!

Today we are celebrating the transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. What does Transfiguration mean? How did it affect Jesus' ministry and how does it affect our lives today? We know that historically Jesus was teaching in the synagogues, healing the sick, and comforting those hurting. Jesus brought positive change in the lives of people wherever he went and whomever he encounters.

Now on transfiguration day, Jesus began his journey to Jerusalem, towards crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day, to save you and me, and to save the whole humanity. From this day, Jesus began a new journey in His public ministry, for the purpose of coming down to earth.

The transfiguration reaffirms Jesus' identity, reveals His glory, and establishes His disciples as witnesses to the world. It also established that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, for all generations. Today's Gospel text tells us that Jesus took His close disciples Peter, James, and John to a high mountain, where He was transfigured before them. (V. 2)

I am sure many of you have experienced hiking. Many people like hiking and I know some of my Seminary friends from Chicago are passionate about hiking. I personally have never gone hiking. I never had the opportunity. The area where I was raised has no hills or mountains. But, when I hear the experiences from my friends, it sounds like hiking is a fun adventure.

But the mountain Jesus and His disciples climbed wasn't much of a climb. They did not need any special gear or equipment to go up to this mountain. It was a smaller mountain with space to walk side by side.

However, Something happened while they were on that mountain. Jesus transfigured Himself before His disciples...*and His cloths became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.* (V. 3) Perhaps the clothes Jesus wore shined with dazzling brilliance, just as Moses's face glowed when he came down off the mountain after speaking with God.

The cloud that covered the mountain, where Moses met God, is similar to the cloud that overshadowed the transfiguration scene. Interestingly, both scenes happened on top of a mountain. Both Moses and Elijah encountered God on a mountain.

Mark takes great care to write down this account so that the connections between Jesus, Moses and Elijah are clear. It also connects prophecies made in the Old Testament represented by Moses and Elijah regarding the fulfillment of Jesus as the Son of God. That dazzling brightness, that bright light that came from God which made Jesus' clothes dazzling white, that same light is present with us today to guide our lives.

One of the greatest blessings of being a Christian is that we are all transformed by the grace of God. **The good news for today is we are transformed as one body in Christ through Jesus' death and resurrection.** The glory of God, and His everlasting love is revealed to us through Jesus Christ and through His Grace.

No doubt the disciples were terrified and confused. They wanted to preserve that glorious moment, so they offered to build three tents, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But the voice from the cloud said: *"This is my Son, the beloved, Listen to Him."*

Listening to the word and teachings of Jesus is important for us. Sometimes we confuse ourselves and try to hold on to our mountain top experiences, without understanding. But just as we see in today's story, we must listen to God's word for his instruction.

The transfiguration of our God reminds us of what lies ahead. It is a sneak preview of Easter and the glory of the resurrection that lies beyond the suffering and death of Good Friday. The season of Lent lies ahead of us. This Ash Wednesday we will be marked with ashes and reminded that "we are dust and to dust we shall return."

The transfiguration of Jesus can help us with our own personal transformation. Paul writes in Romans 12, using a word that was used to describe the transfiguration of Jesus. He writes: *"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed or transfigured by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God."*

Today we cannot see Jesus, like Peter, James and John did that day on the mountain top. But the Word lives amongst us. We can listen to Him. We can hear Him speaking to us through scripture saying... "I forgive you, you are my beloved child" ... and also at the communion table where we encounter our Lord and hear Him saying... *"this is My Body broken for you... this is My Blood shed for you."* When he says, *"it is finished."* There is nothing that we need to build, do, or say. We only have to listen, because this is how our faith is created in us, and new everlasting life is given to us.

Listening is the key. Sometimes when we are feeling low, we may receive a phone call or a visit from a friend. The first thing they usually ask is "how are you doing?" But do they really listen to our response? Do they really hear or understand how we are feeling? But friends we do indeed have a friend in Jesus. Wherever we find ourselves. Whether we are in a dark valley or on the mountain top, Jesus listens to our cries. He is waiting to hear from us to transform our lives, to give us hope and peace.

Let us listen to Him and transform ourselves so that the world will be transformed through us. As the transformation of Jesus on the mountain top brought salvation to humanity, let us humble ourselves to listen and prepare our hearts to receive Christ.

The bright light of transfiguration affirms life, a light that shines ahead into lent to keep us united in Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: ELW #315 (verses 1 & 5)

"How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

Blessing

The peace of the lord be with you always
and also with you. Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

(Continued on the next page.)

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all who suffer and those in need this day especially: Beverly Tankersly, Pastor Matthew Lamb, Connie Mattson, Lori Strickland, Eric Marken, Eva Mohr, Al Picotte, Bill Duff, Bill Vaneffen, Sandra Kaye, Lois Stoppel, Teri DePlonty, and for all those who are grieving for loved ones especially the family and friends of Adam Sanderson, Corri Darou, and Bert Kinnear Jr.. For whom and what else do we pray silently or out loud? (Pause...), that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For companions on life's journey in this worshipping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage *especially missionaries Cyril and Methodius*, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

It is generally at this time during the service that worshipers are invited to share their gifts for the Mission and Ministry of the church. Whether you choose to pause at this time or make your contribution following this service, we encourage you to continue your support of the ministry. We are grateful for the community's continued generous support especially during these trying times.

Offertory Prayer (please join in prayer)

O God,
receive these gifts as you receive us:
like parents receive their children, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.
Amen.

Our Lord's Prayer

I invite you to join in praying the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us...

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

Benediction

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ!
Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn: ELW # 671 (verse 1&2)

"Shine, Jesus, shine."

Sources:

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Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Zoom Information

February 14, 2021 at 11:30 AM for
Faith's Annual Meeting

1. Go to www.zoom.us
2. Along the top towards the right corner, click on "**Join A Meeting**"

Enter the following information when asked for it...

Meeting ID: **896 1171 6468**

Passcode: **639417**

If not using a computer or smartphone, you can join by simply calling in and following the prompts.

Phone number: **1(301)715-8592**

(enter this information when asked)

Meeting ID: **896 1171 6468#** Participant ID: **0#** Passcode: **639417#**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ **In-person Worship Services at Faith has resumed!**

We urge everyone to follow the guidelines set forth to ensure the safety of everyone in attendance. We hope to see you there!

Faith's Annual Meeting will be held this Sunday, February 14, 2021.

The meeting will take place in-person and on Zoom following Sunday's service.

Those running for the 3 seats on the Church Council are:

Ken Randall - 3 year term

My name is Ken Randall, my wife Lily and I have been attending faith for the last few years. She and I have both served on several different committees. I have served on the Church Council once before for a period of about 2 years, and wish to be chosen again. My most recent activity within the church has been being a member of the Call Committee.

Wayne Olsen - 3 year term

My name is Wayne Olsen. I am a retired CFO and General Manager. I've served on the Church Council several years in various capacities. I am currently the Treasurer and Property Manager at Faith, and have been a member since 1997. I am running for a 3-year term.

Jack Armstrong – 1 year term

My name is Jack Armstrong, former Educator and Real Estate Salesperson. I am retired and presently a snowbird. My wife (Louise) and I have been members of Faith Lutheran for many years. I've previously served on the Church Council as Council President. I am presently on the Worship & Music committee, headed up the Kitchen Committee, and Staff Support committee. I desire to fill the one-year council term.

❖ **Pastor Rita is available for any pastoral needs by phone, email, and Zoom!** ❖

If you would like to speak with Pastor Rita, please call or email her at **(312) 478-6212** or **critawilliam@gmail.com** From there if you'd like to set up a Zoom meeting, just ask!

❖ **Ash Wednesday - February 17th**

Ash Wednesday service will be streamed at 10:30am on Facebook, and after the service there will be a drive through ash distribution. Pastor Rita will be available until 3:00pm for the distribution of ashes. All are welcome!

❖ **Midweek Lenten Zoom Gathering**

Beginning February 24th, we will be having 30 minute midweek Lent contemplative worships via Zoom at 6pm every Wednesday. You can make a request for your free copy of the devotional we will be using, by contacting the church office. Zoom info will be coming.

❖ **Online giving coming soon!**

We are working on implementing online giving for anyone looking to make a contribution electronically, instead of writing and mailing a check, or dropping off a contribution. More information will be forthcoming.

❖ **Watch Faith's Worship Service Live on Sundays on our Facebook page!**

You can catch our Service at 10:20am every Sunday at **www.facebook.com/FaithLC1966** . You can also find us online by searching for **FaithLC1966** in any browser. If you have any questions or comments, please call the church office at (906) 632-7246.

*****For now, while we are transitioning back into holding in-person worship, our After Service Virtual Coffee Hour will be suspended until further notice. We apologize for any inconveniences. Stay tuned for more information.*****