

Sunday, March 2, 2025
Transfiguration Sunday
Waiting for the Kingdom and
the Life to Come



Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

*"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that
is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."*

MINISTERS

SENIOR PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Every Member

Derek Harkins

Sylvia Bull

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ACS 917 "Dazzling Presence on the Mountain" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE (ELW Setting 4: pg. 147-148, 149-150)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW Setting 4: pg. 151)

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 314 "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" *

NICENE CREED (Ecumenical Version)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

OFFERING PRAYER

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW Setting 4: pg. 152-153)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 8, pg. 154)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 479 "We Come to the Hungry Feast" *

ELW 388 "Be Not Afraid" *

Sending: God blesses us and sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbors.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 439 "Soon and Very Soon" *

DISMISSAL

**ELW = Red Hymnal; ACS = Purple Hymnal*

READING(S)

First Reading: *Psalm 85:8-13*

Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2*

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, 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. 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. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 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.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading: *Luke 9:28-36*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 9th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

During this season of Time after Epiphany, we participate in the worldwide prayer for Christian unity. Joining with Christians across the world, we will reflect on the shared faith commitments we profess in the Nicene Creed, words that have been important to Christians across the various traditions of Christianity for 1,700 years. Today, we reflect on waiting for the Kingdom and the life to come

Included in our devotions are patristic readings from different geographical areas and ecclesial traditions (Greek, Syriac, Armenian and Latin), which offer an insight into Christian reflection at that time, helping to situate the Council of Nicaea's definitions in both the contexts that gave rise to them and those that were influenced by them.

Monday - Patristic Reading from the Greek Tradition

"You, O Lord, have freed us from the fear of death. You have made the end of this life the beginning for us of true life. You, for a season, let our bodies rest in sleep and awake them again at the last trumpet. You give our earth, which you have fashioned with your hands, to the earth to keep in safety. One day you will take back what you gave, transfiguring with immortality and grace our mortal and unsightly remains ... You showed us the way of resurrection, having broken the gates of hell, and brought to nought him who had the power of death."

- Gregory of Nyssa [c. 335-395], *Life of St Macrina*, 24

Tuesday - Patristic Reading from the Syriac Tradition

"Whoever lives in love in this creation breathes the life coming from God. While yet in this world, he breathes the air of rebirth. In this air the righteous will delight at resurrection. Love is the kingdom whereof our Lord mystically promised the disciples that they would eat in his kingdom: 'You shall eat and drink at the table of my kingdom.' What should they eat, if not love? Love is sufficient to nourish a man instead of food and drink. This is the wine that gladdens the heart of man. Blessed is he who drinks of this wine!

- Isaac of Nineveh [7th century], *First Collection*, 43

Wednesday - Patristic Reading from the Latin Tradition

"By hope God breastfeeds us, nourishes us, strengthens us, and give us consolation in this life of toil. In this hope we sing 'alleluia'. Just look what joy there is in hope! What can the reality be? You ask: 'What can it be?' Listen to what is said: 'They shall get drunk on the plenteousness of your house.' That is the reality that hope is about. We are thirsty. We are hungry. It must be that we shall be satisfied. Hunger while on the road, satisfaction when we come home. When shall we be satisfied? 'I shall be satisfied when your glory is revealed.' ... Then it will be 'alleluia' in reality, while now it is just in hope."

- Augustine of Hippo [354-430], *Sermons*, 255:5

Thursday - Life on the Earth

One conclusion that Christians can draw from the story of the Transfiguration is that the radiance of God can indeed be seen on earth when by faith we gather to hear the word. The disciples do not have to die and join Moses and Elijah in some spiritual realm before they can witness the glory of God. Christians can assist one another in seeing God's glory in many places on earth.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading

We too have encountered the presence of God, not on a Palestinian mountain, but in Jesus Christ. We too are called children of God, thanks to our baptism into Christ. Here on Sunday we listen to him, and for us now and at the end of time Jesus is the transforming manifestation of God.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A fine hymn for Transfiguration is "Jesus on the mountain peak" (ELW 317). Its author, Brian Wren, a minister of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain who now resides in the United States, has crafted many hymns that exemplify the need for worship materials that are speak inclusively about the Christian community and expansively about God. In Wren's Transfiguration hymn, all who worship have witnessed the transfigured Jesus. This is the last time until Easter that we sing "Alleluia."



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$13,498.28** for the week of February 23rd!

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Jody Isaak, in memory of Randall. **Thank you!**

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour for **Daylight Savings Time** next Sunday, March 9th!

Lent is starting this week! Join us **starting March 5**, Ash Wednesday, for a **12:05pm service** along with our 7pm service, as well as a **Soup Lunch at 11:15am, each Wednesday of Lent**. Look on the back counter for **sign-ups to bring bread and bars** for our soup lunches!

Join us for the 29th Annual **Camp of the Cross Potato/Chili Feed Fundraiser**, hosted by Men of Faith, on **this Wednesday, March 5 at 5pm**. Faith Lutheran has long been involved with Camp of the Cross, whether financially, through volunteer work, or our average of 6-7 yearly attendees and members working as counselors. This fundraiser is a great opportunity to support an important ministry partner of Faith Lutheran with your **free-will offering**, while enjoying fellowship and a meal together. Speaking of opportunities, please check the **two sign-up sheets in the Gathering area (to provide bars and chili)** as another method to help out.

Our **Lent devotional** from our theme this year, "All We Need," is now available! Look on the table next to the Coffee Fellowship area to pick up your free copy!

Join us **starting next Sunday, March 9th (Sundays at 9:45am)** or **starting Wednesday, March 19th (Wednesdays at 10am and 6pm)** for our **Lent book study**. We will read and discuss Rev. Danielle Shroyer's book *Original Blessing*, which invites us to consider the possibility that we are more precious to God than we ever imagined. The study will run for 8 weeks, skipping Holy Week and Easter Sunday. **Books are available** in Caitlin McCleary's office.

Our **March newsletter** is in the mail and online! You can pick up a printed copy at the table near our Avenue C entrance.

Please join Connie and Dwight Barden as they celebrate the **marriage of Adam and Britany Barden!** They will be hosting an **open house next Sunday, March 9th, from 1pm-4pm in the Fellowship Hall** downstairs.

Come to our next **All Comers' Choir Rehearsals on Sunday, March 23 and Sunday, April 6.** All singers (any skill level!) are invited to come to one rehearsal at 7:30am, and then perform during the Offertory at the 8:30am service and the prelude at the 11am service that day.

Don't forget to **direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars!** Individuals with certain types of accounts can direct money, donated by Thrivent, to specific non-profits in the area. The **deadline to direct your Dollars is Monday, March 31st.** Make sure to log-in to the online portal, or talk to your Thrivent representative, to select any non-profits you would like to support. In the past, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars to fund devotionals and Bible Study materials, speakers and special events at Faith Lutheran. Thank you for supporting non-profits!

Message & Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: All Comers' Choir, Judy Kubishta

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team H: John Power, Jill Power, Larry Hill, Shelley Hill, Dwight Barden, Connie Barden, Doug Johnson, Betty Johnson

11:00 - Team 4: Andy Steiner, Amy Steiner, Hadley Steiner, Collins Steiner, Lincoln Steiner, Ann Schlafman, Kayla Mahowald, Sue Rydberg, Lisa Bennett

Portions of the Liturgy and the Patristic Readings from Material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025, drafted by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community in Bose, Italy, and approved by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. Bulletin texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26214.

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CALENDAR

Monday, March 3

7:00 AA

Tuesday, March 4

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 BIO Girls

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

11:15 Soup Lunch

12:05 Worship

4:30 8th/9th Confirmation

5:00 Potato/Chili Feed

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Church School

7:00 Worship

Thursday, March 6

9:00 Esther Circle

Friday, March 7

8:00 NA

Saturday, March 8

Sunday, March 9

Daylight Savings Time Begins

7:30 All Comers' Choir (Rehearsal Only)

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

9:45 Lent Book Study

11:00 Worship

1:00 Adam & Britany Barden
Open House

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



MARCH: SCOUTING FOR FOOD

This month, we will be partnering with the Scouts in their Scouting for Food Project! Bring in any non-perishable food items throughout the month of March, and the scouts will bring them to food banks throughout the community. The Northern Lights Council is looking to keep growing this event, and reach their goal of 50,000 pounds of food collected, and your contributions can help!

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8