

# *Transfiguration Sunday*

*February 14, 2021*



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Welcome! The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. We have closed the Sanctuary to the general public amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com)

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Worship Leader: 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.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Worship Leader: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Worship Leader: Holy 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.**

Worship Leader: 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.  
**Congregation: Amen.**

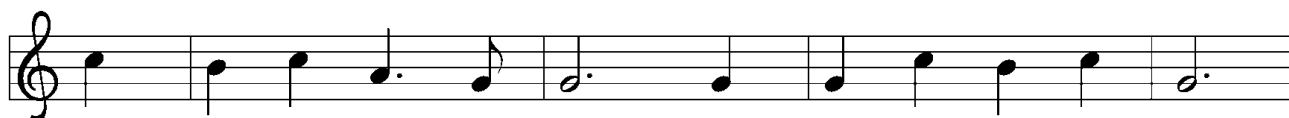
## GATHERING HYMN

## *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

verses 1 & 2



- 1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
- 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
- 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
- 4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
- 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!  
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

**Congregation: Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine 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.**

## FIRST READING

## 2 Kings 2:1-12

Introduction to the Lesson: *Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

Reader: <sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 50:1-6**

*The psalm for the day is read responsively.*

Reader: <sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**<sup>2</sup>Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

**<sup>4</sup>God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
for it is God who is judge.**

**SECOND READING                      2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

Introduction to the Lesson: *The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

Reader: <sup>13</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL LESSON

### Mark 9:2-9

Introduction to the Gospel: *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.*

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Mark in the 9th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Worship Leader: 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.

*After the reading...*

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons

### A Cosmos of Kaleidoscopic Fragments

It was several months since her death, months of looking to make sense of his pained world that had changed so completely. In desperation, he wandered into a room of unknown faces, a circle of uncertainty. Welcome. Names. Introductions. Then instructions from the grief counselor: "Next week, bring an item, something that will let us know your loved one."

He wondered how that could possibly be done. What one thing, what symbol would be able to define a whole life? What to bring? Her hiking boots or blue sport sandals, the spinning wheel, a gardenia bush or bouquet of zinnias? The gold wedding ring worn for

thirty years? Her passport? Perhaps one of her paintings. Maybe her recipe for spaghetti sauce with olives—no, better, her grandmother’s date cookies. The flannel-lined jeans or white linen dress? A picture of her children, her Bible, a book, her diary? He did not return to the circle. He could not imagine any token to be stand-in for a whole life.

There with Jesus on a high mountain apart from the comings and goings below, just hours away from when he would foretell his own suffering and death, three disciples grasped for a full-screen image of their rabbi, Jesus. In one dazzling flash of terrifying brightness they thought they had found it. But then the same voice that presided over Jesus’ baptism interjected: “This is my Son . . .” (Mark 9:7). Suddenly, a cosmos of kaleidoscopic fragments rushed in: there was Jesus restoring sight to blind eyes, defying demonic strongholds, settling seas, passing bread and multiplying fish, rattling an empire, embracing a child, drinking the Samaritan’s water, eating the sinners’ meals, casting mercy about like seed, robing enemies in love, championing the lowly, promising life, accepting death. There is no way that this Jesus could be condensed into a single moment, image, or being.

As if to say, “Don’t be blinded by the light,” from the cloud there came a voice: “*This* is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise vs. 1 & 4*



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun-tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen-dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: 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.*

Prayer Leader: 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, Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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, Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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, Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For all who suffer this day (*especially* Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George Clark, Jill Grote, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia & family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, Rose Marie Piff, Gary Mostrum, Vicki Kennedy, Gail Elder, Valerie Smutko, Jason Meadows, Lisa & Ty Hauschild, Bishop Pedro Suarez, Pastor Courtney Erzkus and family, Ralph Burson, Ellen Duncan, Luanne Sekel, Lorraine Chavez, Seve Chacon, Pat Fredell, Skylar Favos, Marcos de Souza Lima, Maria de Nazare & Michele Rios, Steve Murray and his mom, the family and





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.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer Leader: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, 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.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT AND THE WORD**

Worship Leader: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Worship Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worship Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set light in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ: we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Worship Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

**Congregation: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

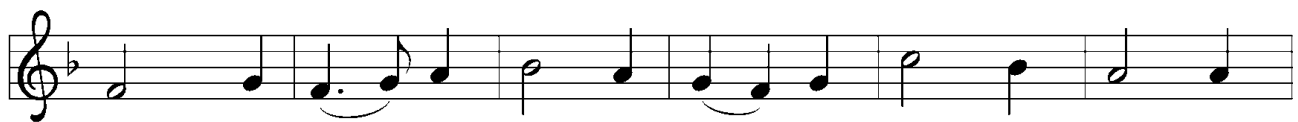
**BLESSING**

Worship Leader: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling vs. 1 & 4*



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,  
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with  
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## DISMISSAL

Worship Leader: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now this service of worship is ending, as this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

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