

Transfiguration Sunday

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Welcome! Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader or by following our online service. 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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Congregation: Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

Congregation: we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation.

Amen.

Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Congregation: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Beautiful Savior

verses 1-3



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904

Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

GREETING

Pastor: 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

Pastor: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 34:29-35

Introduction to the Lesson: *Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

Reader: ²⁹Moses 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. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.

³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but 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, ³⁵the 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.

After the reading...

Reader: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

Reader: ¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not 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. ¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And 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.

^{4:1}Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 9:28-36

Introduction to the Gospel: *The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.*

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

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: 28Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32Now 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. 33Just 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. 34While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" 36When 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.

After the reading...

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit

GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons

Glimpses of Glory

Sometimes transformation happens before our very eyes without us even noticing it.

God's glory was on full display for the disciples that day on the mountaintop, and as people of faith, we profess that God's transforming power is still at work among us

today. But if we are waiting for a dazzling mountaintop moment, we just might miss God's glorious work happening in and around us in real time. These are the pivotal moments that change our perspective, invite us to embark on a new adventure in discipleship, and expand our capacity for love of God and neighbor. These are the moments when Christ is revealed to us. With generations before us, we too are invited to enter the mysteries of faith.

Perhaps Christ is revealed in the chaos of a children's choir, in kneading bread that will nourish bodies, in the careful stitches of quilters that will bring warmth to a cold night. Perhaps you have glimpsed God's glory in the casseroles lovingly prepared for funerals, in a baby shower for teenage parents, in a meal shared among unlikely table mates. Maybe you have been surprised to find Jesus' love in the eyes of a stranger. Maybe you have experienced God's transformative power in the hard work of justice, in the learning and unlearning and courageous reimagining of new ways of being so that all of God's creation might flourish. Perhaps today you will meet God in the proclamation, in bread broken and wine poured, in water splashed gently onto a forehead.

God is here. Christ is among us. The Spirit leads us in every time and place. Where do you see God's glory on display in your life and community?

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,
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

Prayer Leader: Transform us by your greatness, O God. Send us down the mountain to share joy with all people. Make us agents of change, confident that your hope will vanquish despair and your goodness will conquer evil. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: The mountains and valleys sing your praise. Dazzle us with your presence in every landscape: bluffs built by ancient glaciers, canyons carved by flowing rivers, flat horizons with uninterrupted views, and sands shaped by ocean tides. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: You love justice and establish equity. Strengthen leaders of local governments, community nonprofits, and grassroots campaigns. Bless them with gifts of integrity, creativity, and sound conscience. Build up safe and joyful communities where all people may thrive. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: Heal those who are in distress *especially* those on the prayer list of our congregation and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts and all those suffering from violence, terror, and natural disasters (including all those impacted by COVID-19). Give patience to those waiting for answers. Grant hope to those who have reached the limits of treatment. Give compassionate hearts to those who accompany loved ones through illness and uncertainty. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: Today we shout alleluia from the mountaintop; this week we enter the wilderness of Lent. Bless all who prepare and lead us in worship during this change of season: pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who contribute to our worship life (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Prayer Leader: Blessed are they who listened to Christ's voice in this life and now rest with him, especially those within our Memorial Garden. Transform us from glory into glory, and give us your peace, that we do not lose heart. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Worship Leader: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Congregation: Amen.

OFFERING

*Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at GraceCLW.com (look for the “Donate” button), or by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. **You can also fill out an Attendance Form on our website.** If you're new to Grace through our online services, please consider sharing some information about yourself through our Attendance Form.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Congregation: Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: O God of justice and love, 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

Pastor: 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: Pastor: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

SENDING SONG *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: Battle Hymn of the Republic*



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.

Refrain



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

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