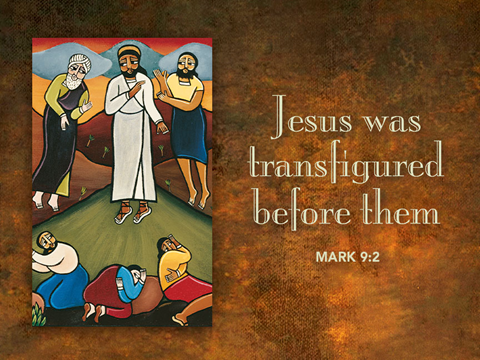
**Grace Lutheran Church**

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**Transfiguration of Our Lord February 14, 2021**



***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*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.*

*Helpful Reminders for House Church:*

* *Mute your mic during hymns.*
* *You may unmute for all group responses. Remember that your host can mute you but cannot unmute you; you must unmute your mic yourself.*
* *If you are joining by phone, move the mouthpiece away from your mouth unless you are speaking, to avoid broadcasting your breathing.*
* *Avoid background conversations when your mic is unmuted.*
* *THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!*

**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Prelude *(Please mute your mic for the prelude)***

**Confession and Forgiveness *(You may unmute your mic)***

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,*

*as the worship leader begins.*

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.*

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.**

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.**

**Opening Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #314 Arise, Your Light Has Come!

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**Word**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

**First Lesson 2 Kings 2:1-12**

*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.*

1Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2Elijah 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. 3The 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.”  
  4Elijah 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. 5The 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.”  
  6Then 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. 7Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8Then 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.  
  9When 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.” 10He 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.” 11As 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. 12Elisha 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 50:1-6**

**C:\Users\Grace Lutheran\Downloads\Icon3 Transfiguration 01 (Color) (Clip Art) (1).tif** 1The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken;  
  calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
 2**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,**  
  **God shines forth in glory.**   
 3Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
  with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.  
 4**God calls the heavens and the earth from above**  
  **to witness the judgment of the people.**  
 5“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
  those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”  
 6**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,**  
  **for it is God who is judge.**

**Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

*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.*

3Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4In 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. 5For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. 6For 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

***Alleluia.*This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!*Alleluia.***

The holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel *(Please mute your mic)*  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**  The Rev. Melody Eastman

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 or are homebound this day, especially Helen, Rich, Sigrid, Dorothy, Anita,

Evelyn, Dolores, Carol, Norma and Dorothy, 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.**

You call us into this community, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. We thank you for the witness of Dorothy Stein, celebrating her 92nd birthday, and Howard and Beth Bruning, celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary, and we ask that you bless their celebrations with joy. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For companions on life’s journey in this worshiping 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, 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.**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*If there are others in your household you may share the peace with them.*

*If your House Church is celebrating Communion, refer to that liturgy here.*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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.**

**Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

**Blessing**

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the

comforter **☩** keep you in peace. **Amen.**

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**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #383 Beautiful Savior; sts. 1, 3, 4

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Sent to the World**

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

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Dorothy Stein Member 92nd Birthday 2/14

Howard and Beth Bruning Members 61st Anniversary 2/6

Helen Sladek Member Healing & Strength

Rich Davison Member Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Member Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy Member Healing & Strength

Sally and Eberhard Slenczka Parents of Karin Slenczka Healing & Strength

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Anita Blakemore, Evelyn Elson, Dolores Nosal, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**Weekly Announcements**

**Ash Wednesday is February 17!** We will mark the beginning of Lent with an All-Church Zoom Service at 7:00 p.m. This service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Communion. **You may pick up ashes and/or communion kits from the office during the following hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.** If you need ashes or communion kits delivered to you, contact the office by Monday, Feb. 15. You will find the link for the Zoom service in *News From Grace,* or you can get the link from the church office.

**Midweek Lent Worship via Zoom, featuring excerpts from Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesdays at 7:00:** Join Pastor Melody and Bradford for a time of prayer and centering, along with reflections on ***Community as Spiritual Practice: Living Out Faith in Democracy***. Pastor Melody will explore many of the questions about whether, when and how collective faith impacts our society. We will look at scriptural foundations, the experience and teachings of Luther, boundaries established in our Constitution, and the praxis of the ELCA. (And yes, it *is* a spiritual discipline!)

**House Church Worship via phone or internet every Sunday morning at 9:30am!** We currently have five “House Churches” of worshipping members (each House Church consisting of 6-8 members/families meeting via Zoom or calling in by phone.) If you are unsure how to sign on, go ahead and register and let us know you need some help; we’ll walk you through it! We would be so blessed to have you join us. Register online for a House Church at [graceglenellyn.org](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fgraceglenellyn.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0Hfv_r7Lkk0l-PSfwxo5IuvGdumHQ3QCEP7v4ZvaR0WOJKVA5hbrjxKAE&h=AT1soNxFTUJFeYviMArEGKelFeVj5prKjMKXk0UJTSFn5xaDSLNHlHWl9jolaFvljgE6OlBV9vpq3vIE5HfsX4lEUbwYpfdYpMW57h6Tyc58-9jrGuramUJOJJ1Qd_RvJw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2EpYQU1esaMoWfP5JtqUBhBqXEjGx5atvDW6kLdBJviMugmDClI27DYHudyuPviP9Hv6sjAHveGxQGTojgtZKHh3Ar39pGN4cSEtsbiD_E96uHBoM53nY40A4mpgsxH7Ee_La5kZ5CLFMRaCbeBMrb7-BmRa8JDzOlS6vBJ2YxwbmuqBlPHi9nylzaWrSwmlhCSx9Ig0m3keY) (on the main page Announcements).

**Contributions to Grace:** You may continue to mail your contributions to the church office; have your bank mail your contribution to the church office; or contribute on-line through Grace’s website. Please know, pandemic or no, our mission continues! Thank you for your continued support of our ministries at Grace Lutheran.

Contributions to **Grace’s Mortgage Reduction Fund** are always welcome! Indicate on the contribution that it is for the Mortgage Reduction Fund. Our goal is to make one additional $100,000 payment when our loan comes up for renewal in October!

**Thrivent Choice Program Members**: Be sure to check your account to see if you have any funds to distribute!

**Help Needed for Drive-thru Food Collection:** Grace will again staff the drive-thru food collection that takes place the first Friday of each month for the GE Food Pantry. The event will be **Friday, March 5, from 9am-noon**. Three people are needed for each shift, either 9-10:30am or 10:30am-noon. Please contact Carol Asselmeier at [carolassel@aol.com](mailto:carolassel@aol.com) if you can help! Thanks.

**Food Pantry Needs:** Tomato Sauce/Paste/Diced; Ketchup; Pet Food; Shampoo; Olives/Pickles; Mac & Cheese, Apple Sauce, Tooth Brushes.

**Rest In Peace:** Carol Jane Jensen (Broker), former member of Grace, (ex-wife of Pastor Rod Broker) passed away on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at the age of 71, near St. Louis, MO.  She is survived by her twins, Kim and Ryan, also former members of Grace, and grandchildren.  Carol succumbed to pancreatic cancer after a two month battle. No services are planned. https://stlouiscremation.com/obituaries/carol-jensen/

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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