



Thou art fairer than the children of men:  
grace is poured into Thy lips.

+ *Psalm 45:2a (KJV)*

## **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

**February 14, 2021**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Transfiguration Sunday brings a close to the Epiphany season and prepares us for Lent. Jesus has been revealing His true nature through His words and actions, and on the Mount of Transfiguration three disciples see His glory revealed in the strange and mysterious transfiguration.

Moses and Elijah appear with Him, talking about His departure in Jerusalem. But our Lord then commands the disciples not to tell about the event until after His resurrection.

Today, long after that first Easter Sunday, our Lord reveals His true glory as by faith we see His true body and most precious blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. Here we see and touch the strange and mysterious Sacrament, the assurance of sins forgiven and a foretaste of the feast to come.

As we behold the glorious Transfiguration of Our Lord, His eyes are set on Golgotha. The season of Lent is a special time of prayerful and penitential reflection. And so it is the historic practice of the Church to set aside our *Alleluias* and Hymn of Praise from the start of Lent until Easter Sunday, when our joy bursts forth anew at the Good News of Christ's Resurrection!

Our Lenten focus is the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of our Lord Christ Jesus to atone for our sins. But Lent is also an opportunity to remember our baptism *into His death* and the *new life* that He gives as Redeemed Children of God.



*The Transfiguration of Jesus by Carl Heinrich Bloch, 1872, Public Domain*

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw

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## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION: Alleluia, Song of Gladness

LSB 417



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while  
 4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed



can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them  
 lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,  
 here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions  
 Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter



Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of  
 All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -  
 Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn  
 With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -



God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.  
 time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.  
 ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

*Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*[Hebrews 10:22]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Psalms 32:5*

*Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

Psalm 99:1-5; antiphon: v. 9

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.*



*(Antiphon)* Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy | mountain;\*  
for the LORD our God is | holy!

- 1 The LORD reigns; let the peoples | tremble!\*  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the | earth quake!
  - 2 **The LORD is great in | Zion;\*  
He is exalted over all the | peoples.**
  - 3 Let them praise Your great and | awesome name!\*  
Ho- | ly is He!
  - 4 **The King in His might loves | justice.\*  
You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in | Jacob.**
  - 5 Exalt the LORD our God; worship at His | footstool!\*  
Ho- | ly is He!
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*The antiphon is repeated.*

### KYRIE

Mark 10:47



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



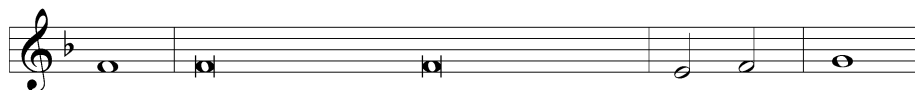
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

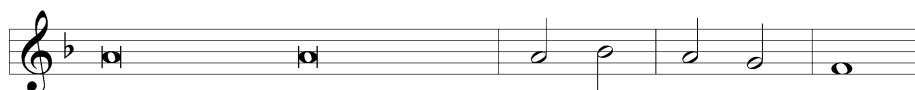
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.  
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**G** A - men.

## OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 34:29–35

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 34.

<sup>29</sup>When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

<sup>34</sup>Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, <sup>35</sup>the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.*



Praise the LORD, all | nations!\*

**Extol Him, all | peoples!**

For great is His steadfast | love toward us,\*

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due His name;\*

**bring an offering, and come in- | to His courts!**

## EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 3:12–13; 4:1–6

**P** The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, chapter three.

<sup>3:12</sup>Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. . . .

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only 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 what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. Thou art fairer than the children of men:

grace is poured into Thy lips. Alleluia.

Psalm 45:2a (KJV)



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:2–9 (NKJV)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. <sup>4</sup>And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—<sup>6</sup>because he did not know what to say, for they greatly afraid.

<sup>7</sup>And a cloud overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.

<sup>9</sup>Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life **✠** of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair**

LSB 413



1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair  
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh  
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray  
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high  
 Δ 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son

Of glo - ry that the Church may share,  
 The in - car - nate Lord holds con - verse high;  
 Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day  
 By this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,  
 And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one,

Which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,  
 And from the cloud the Ho - ly One  
 What glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove  
 For which in joy - ful strains we raise  
 We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace

Where bright - er than the sun He glows!  
 Bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.  
 Who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.  
 To see Thy glo - ry face to face.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

**SERMON**

*Rev. Griebenaw*

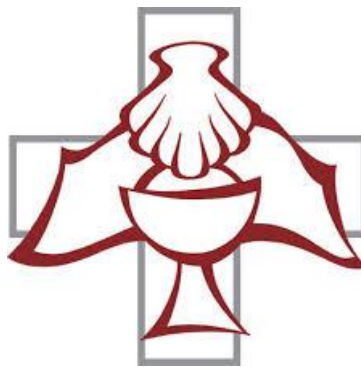
*After the sermon, the pastor may say:*

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4:7*

**C** Amen.


*Stand*





## OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Kneel (or remain standing)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

- P** Heavenly Father, You revealed Your glory in the transfiguration of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who tabernacled among us in the flesh. Open our eyes of faith, that we would see Him continuing to tabernacle among us here in the Divine Service, and that we would heed Your admonition to “Hear Him” as He forgives and preserves us at the font, pulpit, and altar. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy Father, with the appearance of Moses and Elijah at our Lord’s glorious transfiguration, You reveal to us that all the Law and the prophets are fulfilled in Him. Send Your blessing upon all pastors and servants of Your Church, that all their preaching and teaching would flow from the right understanding that all Holy Scripture testifies of Christ and all that He has done, and continues to do, for our eternal salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious Father, from whom every fatherhood is named, support and bless every Christian home, that husbands and wives be devoted to one another and that parents deliver the faith unto their children by word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty Father, You alone establish all authority on earth. Bless those entrusted with this responsibility both here and abroad, that they would serve with integrity and honor and for the well-being of all; especially with lift before You Joseph, our President, Gavin, our Governor, and Cheryl, our Mayor. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Merciful Father, graciously comfort and strengthen all who are sick or beset by any illness. Grant that they would know Your peace and, in accord with Your gracious will, be healed and given relief from their infirmities or strengthen to bear the illness in faith. Be with those who are lonely, despondent, or depressed. Surround them with those who know Your redeeming love and will care for them. Grant steadfastness to those near death, comfort to those who grieve, and impart confidence in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of all who die in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**



**P** Heavenly Father, how lovely is the dwelling place of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gives us sinners to eat and to drink of His true body and most precious blood here at the holy altar. Grant to all who come to this feast today repentant and believing hearts that are united in the true confession of faith, that in the blessed Sacrament they receive the forgiveness, life, and salvation, and be strengthened in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord God, Father almighty, we remember on this day the glorious manifestation of Your Son's divinity on the Mount of Transfiguration. Teach us to listen to Jesus and ever fix our eyes on Him and on His innocent suffering and death for our forgiveness. By Your grace and mercy, strengthen us to remain faithful in all circumstances of trial, temptation, and persecution. Preserve us to the end, that we may be granted a blessed death, holding fast to Your beloved Son, with whom You are well pleased; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*The live-stream service concludes with the following:*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** 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.

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

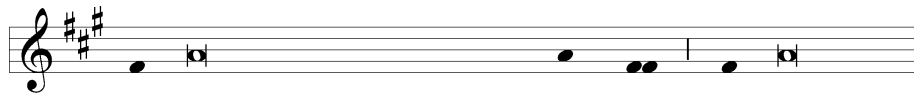
Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that following His steps we may steadfastly walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

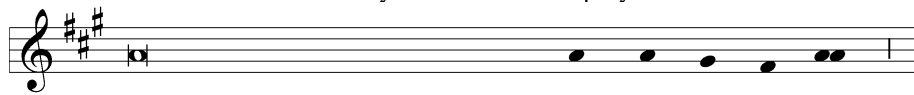
*Stand*

## BENEDICTION

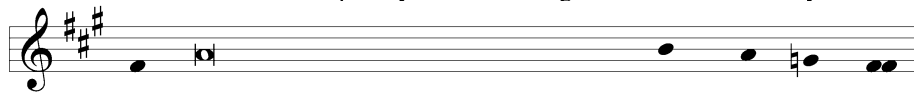
*Numbers 6:24-26*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

*The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.*

CLOSING HYMN: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



*Refrain*  
 In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000347*

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠  
 (TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Saint Valentine's Day!

You know, one of the things I miss from my schooldays is Valentines. By that, I mean those simple little one-fold cardstock notes with Garfield or Snoopy on them that you gave to everybody in class with cute little sayings like, "Valentine, you're the greatest!" or "Stay cool, Valentine!"

Somehow, as we get older, that purity, that simplicity, that TRUTH of Saint Valentine's Day is corrupted—it changes from a day of giving and receiving love (fraternal, simple, Christ-like LOVE) to a day of romantic passion with roses and chocolates and grand gestures to win the affections of a pretty girl or handsome boy. I remember buying one or two roses from the clubs at my high school and having it delivered to a young lady that caught my eye . . . with little or no success, mind you.



Now it seems that some adults think Saint Valentine's Day is to be celebrated ONLY by couples in love! This day of pure and simple LOVE, twisted into a day of pain and sadness at being reminded of loneliness! At the risk of sounding like a grumpy old man, I say, "HOGWASH!" That is NOT what Saint Valentine's Day is about!

Let's get back to basics and ask who was Saint Valentine and why is this day of LOVE attached to his name? Well, the biography of Saint Valentine notes that he was a physician and priest living in Rome during the rule of the Emperor Claudius, Valentine became one of the noted martyrs of the third century. The commemoration of his death, which occurred in the year 270, became part of the calendar of remembrance in the early church of the West. Tradition suggests that on the day of his execution for his Christian faith, he left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer written on an irregularly-shaped piece of paper. This greeting became a pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that now are the highlight of Valentine's Day in many nations.

Did you catch that last part? The heart-shaped Valentine cards that we send are imitations of that "note of encouragement" that Saint Valentine sent to his jailer's child! A simple and final act of love and concern for the neighbor before being put to death for the sake of Christ!

As a martyr to the faith and witness that Christ is Lord, Saint Valentine loved God more than his own life, suffering all, even death, rather than falling from Him. Saint Valentine also is a wonderful example of Christ's command to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt 5:44). In leaving the note of encouragement for the child of his jailer, he also showed himself to be a son of our Father who is in heaven (Matt 5:45a).

And this is why we love—in the way that Saint Valentine loved, in the way that husbands and wives love, in the way that Christ loves the Church, and in the way that God loves the world—for we have been shown love and we have been loved by God. "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. . . . We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:15b, 19).

Speaking of love . . . I would LOVE for you to join me for our Bible Study meeting on "Zoom" every Tuesday at Noon. With the start of Lent, we'll be looking at God's historic call to His people to repent and return to Him. We'll also explore how the things of this world try to get in the way of our returning to God.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either "669-900-9128" or "346-248-7799" and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is "12345"

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw