

February 15, 2026 Transfiguration of Our Lord



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Interim Pastor **†** Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

We welcome you to worship here at Grace!

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.
Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.
S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.*

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

The Gospel of Matthew in Epiphany (Jan/Feb)

*We've now read the birth narrative of Jesus in Matthew chapters 1 & 2, in which the Gospel Writer "embedded" Jesus not only in the manger, but in the continuing story of God's covenant people, going back through Moses and Abraham. Moving from the twinkling lights around the Christmas Babe, now we see the Light of the World, Jesus, as he begins his earthly ministry. Epiphany is a season of "a-ha" epiphanies, of realizations dawning, of **light that reveals** what Jesus means for the world. In these cold and cloudy days, we long for the light of Christ to surround our minds and hearts.*

*The rest of Matthew's Gospel, from Chapters 3 to 28 is now **centered on teaching the people (then and now!) what it means to remain in covenant with God** – no easy task to teach or to learn. Matthew will alternate telling STORIES about Jesus with writing down SERMONS by Jesus. These were written about 3 decades after Jesus' death and resurrection, so they're not word-for-word, but Matthew is using these recollections to move the STORY forward while basing it in Jesus' SERMONS or teachings.*

This Epiphany, between January 12 and February 15, our worship readings are from 3-5 of Matthew's Gospel.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Theme</u> | <u>Story or Sermon</u> |
|--|-----------------|--|------------------------|
| 1/12/26 | Matthew 3:13-17 | Baptism of Jesus | Story |
| January 19 | John 1:29-42 | Baptism retold, Disciples called | Story |
| January 25 | Matthew 4:12-22 | Call of Fishermen | Story |
| February 1 | Matthew 5:1-13 | The Beatitudes ("Blessed are they who...") | Sermon |
| February 8 | Matthew 5:13-20 | You are salt & light, I am Promised Fulfillment | Sermon |
| February 15 (Lent starts next week) | Matthew 17:1-9 | Jesus Transfigured, 3 disciples see him anew | Story |

These readings teach us who Jesus is and how we can follow him. Will we let Jesus out of the Christmas manger and into a wider Epiphany story of God calling us? Will we listen to teachings that place demands on us?

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

by Garth Edmundson

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN*Jesus on the Mountain Peak*

ELW #317

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.**

KYRIE

ELW S156

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW S159

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR*Please be seated.***PSALM 2**

¹ Why are the nations ¹ in an uproar?
 Why do the peoples mutter ¹ empty threats?
² Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes ¹ plot together,
 against the LORD and against the ¹ LORD's anointed?

³ “Let us break their ¹ yoke,” they say;
 “let us cast off their ¹ bonds from us.”

⁴ **God whose throne is in heav- ¹ en is laughing;**
the LORD holds them ¹ in derision.

⁵ Then in wrath God ¹ speaks to them,
 and in rage fills ¹ them with terror.

⁶ **“As for me, I have anoint- ¹ ed my king**
upon Zion, my ¹ holy mountain.”

⁷ Let me announce the decree ¹ of the LORD,
 who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I be- ¹ gotten you.

⁸ **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for ¹ your inheritance**
and the ends of the earth for ¹ your possession.

⁹ You shall crush them with an ¹ iron rod
 and shatter them like a ¹ piece of pottery.”

¹⁰ **And now, you ¹ kings, be wise;**
be warned, you rulers ¹ of the earth.

¹¹ Submit to the ¹ LORD with fear,
 and with trembling ¹ bow in worship;

¹² **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden ¹ blaze of wrath.**
Happy are all who take ref- ¹ uge in God!

READING: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God.

¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring

fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites.¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Alleluia!

P: Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.***THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

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.

*Please be seated.***OFFERING****OFFERTORY***The Transfiguration*

by Richard Shephard

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart* WOV #732

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed your people with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, “Merciful God,” please respond with “**Receive our prayer.**”*

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God’s loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION (Setting Five)

GREAT THANKSGIVING ELW S161

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW S162

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER ELW S163

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* ELW S164

COMMUNION HYMN *Beautiful Savior* ELW #838

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the container on your way to return to your pew. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness

by J. S. Bach

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**We are glad for your presence today.
We hope you come again soon!**

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Kevin Thomas**

The flowers sponsor this week is: Kathy Nigsche, in loving memory of
Kay Wopatek.



New Testament Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lenten Devotional Booklets and Calendars: There are some 2026 ELCA World Hunger Lent Calendars available in the Church narthex, along with a Lenten Daily Devotional Guide for those of you who prefer hard copies.

February 18: Ash Wednesday

There is a sign-up sheet on a clipboard in the narthex for our Ash Wednesday Soup Supper to be held at 6:00 PM. Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will follow at 7:00 PM.

Lent Bread & Broth & Book Study

Thursday Evenings in the Fellowship Hall

2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, and 3/26

Dinner at 6, Study 6:30-7:15



Sign-up sheets for food contribution (soup, salad, and bread) will be in the narthex on Sundays. You may also sign up by calling the church office and letting us know what you wish to bring.

Psalms: 3 Categories

Based on works by Dr. Walter Bruggemann, our study will provide a weekly overview of how Psalms find God to be Here, There, and Everywhere (Oriented, Disorienting, and giving New Orientation.) We use Psalms weekly in worship, so come learn about how the Psalms bless us!

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, April 18: Church Council is planning an Oldies Dance Party which will include a DJ and good food and beverages! Stay tuned for details in upcoming bulletins and in our next Messenger.

Friday, May 15: 20th Annual NICU Baby Shower for Shore Memorial Hospital, hosted here at Grace along with our friends from Reformation Lutheran Church. You are welcome to start bringing in donations for this as soon as you wish.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

February 15, 2026-February 22, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday 2/15/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum

10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 2/16/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

6:30PM Grief Support Group

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 2/17/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 2/18/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

6:00PM AA Book Study

6:00PM Bread & Broth

7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00

THURSDAY 2/19/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

5:00PM Choir

6:00 AA 12-Step

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 2/20/26

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 2/21/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

1st Sunday in Lent 2/22/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship

10:15AM Traditional Worship

SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace Lutheran Church. Present this on any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner
6710 Tilton Road
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