Moe Lutheran Church

Together in Christ for
everyone, every day, everywhere

Transfiguration Sunday – March 9, 2025

The forty days of Lent invite us on a journey. This journey is a new opportunity for us to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

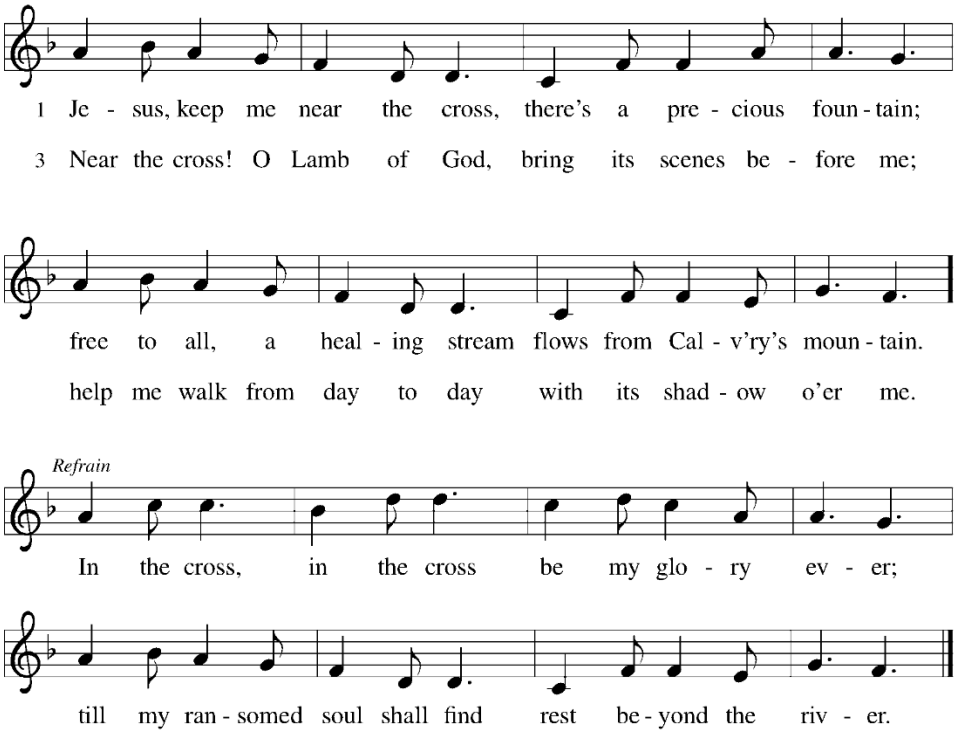
Most merciful God…
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"* ***ELW 338***

KYRIE: *(spoken)*
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

RESPONSE:



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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:
O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

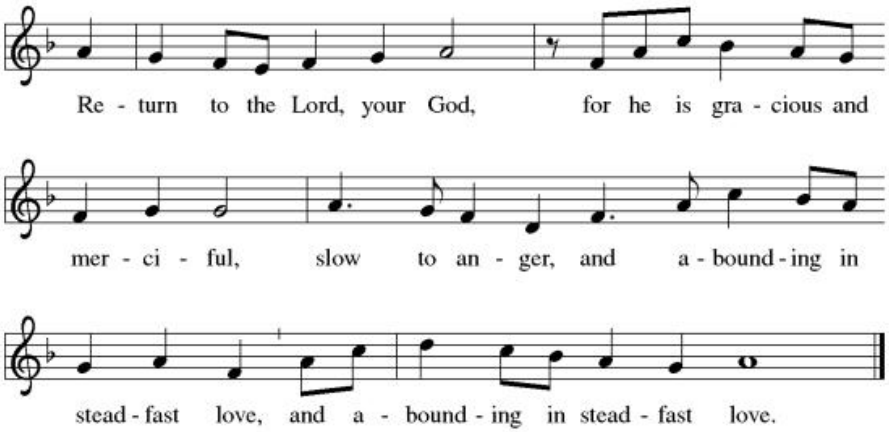
FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
1When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you
as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, 2you shall
take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from
the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a
basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling
for his name. 3You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and
say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into
the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." 4When the priest
takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of
the LORD your God, 5you shall make this response before the LORD your
God:
"A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and
lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation,
mighty and populous. 6When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted
us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7we cried to the LORD, the God of our
ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our
oppression. 8The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an
outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and
wonders; 9and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land
flowing with milk and honey. 10So now I bring the first of the fruit of the
ground that you, O LORD, have given me."
You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before
the LORD your God. 11Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens
who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that
the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16
1You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
2will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."

9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
10 no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
12 On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
13 You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
14 Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
16 With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

GOSPEL VERSE: *Holy Communion Setting 3, page 142*



GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 4th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the
Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.
He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was
famished. 3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command
this stone to become a loaf of bread.” 4 Jesus answered him, “It is written,
‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

[5]Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. [6]And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. [7]If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

[8]Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

[9]Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, [10]for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’[11]and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

[12]Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” [13]When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

SERMON SONG: ***“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”*** ***ELW 319***

SERMON

APOSTLES’ 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.

OFFERING MOMENT:
Our Lord Jesus offered himself for us in love on the cross. We bring our offering in response, giving thanks for such an amazing gift! May God's Spirit bless and use these gifts in Christ's name!

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG: ***"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*** *ELW Service Music 186*

OFFERING PRAYER:
O Mighty One, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all that we offer you – ourselves, our time, and our possessions – that through us, your grace and favor may be made know to all the world for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

PRAYERS:
In prayer we seek God's intervention, healing, guidance, and peace, not just for ourselves, but also for those in our churches, communities, and around the world.

Heavenly Father, we approach You with hearts of thankfulness for the gift of Your Church. We uplift the body of Christ around the world and ask a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit on all believers. Make Your Church a beacon of light, love, and truth in a world that greatly needs You. God of grace … **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you have made inspiring beauty in the wonders of your Creation. Draw us to appreciate and acknowledge the tender balance of the natural world that we may be wise stewards, careful to protect the gifts you have given us in nature. God of grace … **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, give strength and discernment to those we rely upon for leadership. Help them resist the pressures of power and influence, and instead, lead with integrity and compassion. We pray You would work in and through them to bring about peace, prosperity, and freedom for all. God of grace … **hear our prayer.**

Lord, where there is violence, bring calm. Where there is hatred, bring love. Where there is division, bring unity. We pray for all who are working to promote justice, fairness, and equity. Give them wise discernment to find and walk a path of healing among the nations. God of grace … **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Healer, we come to You with faith, knowing that You are the great Physician. Your Word tells us that by Your stripes, we are healed. We bring before You all those who are sick, in pain, or suffering in any way. We ask for Your healing touch to restore their bodies, minds, and spirits. God of grace … **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Lord, we remember the elderly and the lonely in our communities. Your Word tells us to honor our elders and to care for the least among us. We ask for Your comfort and presence to surround those who feel forgotten, isolated, or neglected. God of grace … **hear our prayer.**

We offer these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting that our good and gracious God hears and listens to His people's pleas. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, **AMEN.**

LORD'S PRAYER:
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.

BENEDICTION with Three-fold Amen.

SENDING SONG: "*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"* ***ELW 545***

DISMISSAL:
Go in peace. Jesus walks with you!
Thanks be to God.

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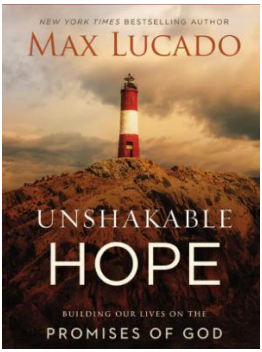
Join us for "Unshakable HOPE"
Upcoming in March

Wednesday, March 12 @ MOE
"Stamped with God's Image"
5:30 PM Supper by Education Committee, 6:30 PM Worship

Wednesday, March 19 @ MESSIAH
"The Devil's Days are Numbered"
5:30 PM Supper by Belize Mission Trip Youth, 6:30 PM Worship

Wednesday, March 26 @ MOE
"Your Prayers Have Power"
5:30 PM Supper by Moe Women of ELCA, 6:30 PM Worship