

Faith Lutheran Church



Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 15th, 2026

Faith Lutheran Church is a community living in God's love which embraces and welcomes every person as part of God's Beloved Community. We celebrate each person created in God's image as we strive for justice, peace, and racial equity in our community and the wider world. We openly welcome and affirm all persons of every race, age, socioeconomic class, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, marital and family status, background, and experience. We seek to live as a community of God's people that values each person's voice, gifts, and full participation in all areas of the congregation's life and worship. We embrace the work of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us as we care for the earth and all of God's people.

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.

GATHERING

Hymn

ELW 834 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

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.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
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.

Hymn

ACS 1078 "There Is a Longing in Our Hearts"

Refrain — All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -
 veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our
 hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our

hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
 hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
 hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
 deep - est night. We call you; we wait:

Refrain



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

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 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.

Children's Sermon & Sunday School

WORD

First 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 2

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

¹ Why are the nations | in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot**

together,

against the LORD and against the | LORD's anointed?

³ "Let us break their | yoke," they say;
"let us cast off their | bonds from us."

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

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

⁶ **"As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king
upon Zion, my | holy mountain."**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 17th 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."

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon & Silent Reflection

Hymn of the Day

ELW 314 "Arise, Your Light Has Come"

Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

“For Jesus, the quality of the gift is not how large it is, but the proportion you give and the heart with which you give it.” There are many options for giving including plate giving, text to give (833-686-4752) or through our website.



Offertory Hymn

ELW 711 “O Day of Peace” in the tune of ELW 336

- 1 O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes. May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release, till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.
- 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small; as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all. Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord; the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

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 us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

Lord's Prayer

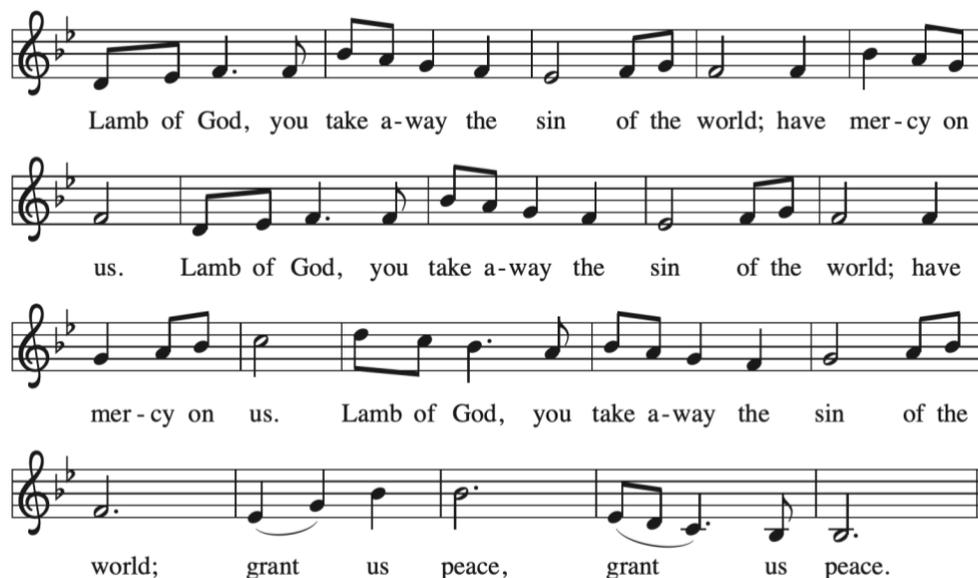
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

ELW 838 "Beautiful Savior"

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Radiant God,

we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood

you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight,

that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,

and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

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FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE

**Gathered as a community living in God's love we serve all people, care
for the earth and embrace the work of the Holy Spirit.**

*Faith Lutheran Church will be recognized as a community of spiritual growth, a place of
acceptance and inclusion, a gateway for environmental stewardship, a creator of partnerships
and an advocate for social justice and peace.*

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP this Sunday includes:

Presiding	<i>Rev. John C. Norquist</i>
Organist/ Pianist	<i>Stephen V. Hibbard</i>
Reader	<i>Barbara Johnson</i>
Communion Assistant	<i>Barbara Johnson</i>
Sunday School Instructor(s)	<i>Tom Schoofs</i>
Greeter	<i>The Schoofs</i>
Ushers	
Communion Set-up	<i>Esther Rusch, Carol Bury & Sandy Stelter</i>
Live Stream	<i>Joe & Dottie Dorr</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February Mission of the Month Mt. Meru Coffee Project

Once again, we are excited to focus our February Mission of the Month on the Mt Meru Coffee project (MMCP). Established in 1999, the Project enables the small coffee farmers living on the slopes of Mount Meru in Tanzania to have funds

available to send their children to school, access and pay for health care, and to support local farm villages, markets, and merchants. The Project provides small farmers with a fair price for their premium coffee. A fair price provides an increase in farm income, allowing the farmers to support their families with dignity.

Purchasing and drinking Mt. Meru Premium Tanzanian Coffee is the single most important way in which individuals, congregations, and businesses can support thousands of family coffee farmers in Tanzania. However, additional financial support from congregations and individuals has greatly helped the farmers advance their farming techniques, enhancing their incomes even more. Faith has been a strong supporting congregation to the project almost from the very beginning. Not only do many of our members purchase their home coffee from the MMCP, but we use Mt Meru coffee in Faith's kitchen, we provide additional financial support from our February Mission of the Month, and in recent years, our Trust Funds Committee has provided matching funds to double the impact. Please consider supporting the Mt Meru Coffee Project with a financial gift to the February Mission of the Month. Help the MMCP continue their mission: **Supporting Families, Growing Futures, Changing Lives.**

Budget Forum TODAY

Please stay after church today to be involved in the budget forum. We need your voice!

Community Book Club

All are welcome to join our community book club! The next book our community book club will be reading is *The Jesus Cow* by Michael Perry. The book club will meet, Monday March 23rd at 6:30pm to discuss, hope to see you there!

Annual Congregation Meeting

Please mark your calendars, February 22nd is our Annual Meeting following worship. We look forward to do the work of the church.

Trust Fund Grants and Scholarships

The Trust Funds Committee is now accepting grant and scholarship applications for 2026. The Applications can be accessed, completed and submitted on Faith's website. Go to www.faithlutherancedarburg.com and click on "Resources" in the menu bar. Then click on "Trust Funds and Missions of the Month," where you will find the applications for grants and scholarships. Paper grant applications will be available upon request, if necessary.

Grant applications can be submitted by any Faith member. They are generally for non-profit organizations that you would like to see us support. The amounts available are dependent on the previous year's investment earnings and the

number of applications. Scholarship applications are available for any student who is pursuing post-secondary education and is a member of Faith. High School seniors and students who are already in college should complete and submit the application. The scholarships will be awarded after the fall semester of the next school year, 2026-27.

All applications will be due by February 28. The committee will review them in March and April and awardees will be notified by the end of April. For more information, please contact Hollie Milam. trustfunds@faithlutherancedarburg.com

What Goes Up

The law of gravity dictates that whatever goes up must come down. Even with its dazzling mountaintop revelation, the transfiguration story quickly reminds us that if Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, then not even God's beloved can escape death's inevitable pull. Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up the mountain, but very soon they will be on their way down again. Suddenly, Jesus is gloriously transformed before the three disciples; then, just as suddenly, Jesus speaks of his impending death.

The transfiguration is a story of both fulfillment and foretaste. The appearance of Moses and Elijah reminds us of Jesus' promise to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, during his sermon on another mountain (Matthew 5:17). The startling turn toward talk of his suffering and death gives us a foretaste of the "mountain" at Golgotha he has yet to climb.

For the church, coming down the Mount of Transfiguration leads directly into the season of Lent and a journey that draws out more fully for us the implications of baptism. For Jesus, his baptism by John at the Jordan was just the start of a journey to be fulfilled in all the ups and downs to come. This is how transformation tends to happen—not when we insist on playing it safe, but when we dare to enter more fully into life as it is. So, too, our baptism can be fulfilled only in the light of our mortality. God's voice on the mountaintop calls us not simply to behold God's beloved Son but also to follow where Jesus leads.

All this, however, is not meant to bring us down. Jesus' transfiguration offers a glimpse of an even bigger picture that includes both gravity and grace. It foreshadows what is to come: death—and resurrection. This promise of new life is a bright cloud that leads the church now, as it did the ancient Israelites, through the wilderness ahead.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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