



A place where heaven and earth meet,  
where people encounter God's generosity  
and healing presence.

[www.thebeachchurch.com](http://www.thebeachchurch.com)

Pastor Jim Coyl

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

**Transfiguration.**

**February 15, 2026**

## **Welcome**

## **Call to Worship**

Leader: Come and see the glory of the Lord revealed on the mountain.

**People:** We come to worship the Christ whose light shines in the darkness.

Leader: Jesus is transfigured before his disciples, radiant with God's glory.

**People:** We behold him in awe and listen for God's voice.

Leader: From the cloud comes the word of love and command: "This is my Son."

**People:** We will listen to him and follow where he leads.

Leader: As we come down from the mountain, Christ goes with us.

**People:** We worship, transformed and ready to walk in his light.

## **Hymn**

## **Scripture Reading** Matthew 17:1-9 - The Transfiguration

17 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[a] 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;[b] 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.”

### **Hymn**

### **Sermon                      Light for the Journey**

### **Pastoral Payer and the 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **Hymn**

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-743469. All rights reserved.

### **From Glory to the Way of the Cross**

In Matthew 17:1–9, Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up the mountain and is transfigured before them. Light pours from him; the Law and the Prophets stand beside him; the Father’s voice names him as the Beloved Son. It is a moment of overwhelming clarity—who Jesus truly is, and where all of Israel’s hopes converge.

Yet the story does not end on the mountain. Jesus commands silence as they descend, already turning their faces toward Jerusalem and the cross. The Transfiguration is not an escape from suffering but a revelation meant to sustain faith through it.

Bishop Robert Barron often reflects on the Transfiguration as a divine “confirmation” before the coming scandal of the cross: the disciples are given a glimpse of glory so that, when darkness falls, they may remember who Jesus is and trust where he leads. Glory precedes sacrifice; vision precedes obedience.

As the Church moves from the radiance of Transfiguration toward the austerity of Lent, we are invited into the same pattern. Lent is not a denial of glory but a disciplined walk shaped by it. We fast, pray, and repent not to earn God’s love, but because we have already glimpsed it in Christ’s shining face.

Strengthened by that vision, we follow Jesus down the mountain—listening to him, trusting him, and walking with him toward the cross that leads, paradoxically, to resurrection.

The kingdom of heaven is not distant. It is among us.

### **Daily Lectionary Readings**

**Monday, February 16, 2026:** Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34;

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026:** Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6;

### **Lent Begins**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026:** Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Thursday, February 19, 2026:** Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7;

**Friday, February 20, 2026:** Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17;

**Saturday, February 21, 2026:** Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7;

## **An Inspired Vision for Lent**

Lent invites us not simply to do more, but to become more aware. Drawing on the contemplative spirituality of Richard Rohr, this season can be understood as a journey inward—away from perfectionism and toward transformation. Rather than focusing on self-improvement or religious performance, Rohr reminds us that Lent is about consenting to God’s presence and allowing grace to do its slow, quiet work.

At the heart of this approach is contemplative prayer: resting in God rather than striving for God. Silence, simplicity, and honest self-reflection create space for God to meet us as we are. Lent becomes a time to befriend our limits, trusting that weakness and failure are not obstacles to grace but openings through which God works most deeply.

Rohr also challenges us to fast not only from comforts, but from ego—our need to be right, to judge, or to control. True devotion reveals itself in compassion, humility, and a growing capacity to love. Seen this way, the Cross is not a transaction to be explained, but a place of solidarity where God enters fully into human suffering.

Ultimately, a Rohr-inspired Lent invites us to awaken to Christ present in all things—in ourselves, in others, and in the world God so lovingly holds. Lent is not about climbing toward holiness, but about falling into mercy and emerging more fully alive in love.

**Suggested works by Richard Rohr:** Rohr: Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life. A foundational work on transformation through failure, limitation, and grace. Everything Belongs: An introduction to contemplative spirituality and non-dual awareness. The Universal Christ: Explores Christ’s presence in all creation and expands traditional understandings of incarnation and redemption.

## **Ash Wednesday Observance — February 18, 2026**

Wednesday, February 18, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Pastor Coyl will welcome all into the sanctuary for the Imposition of Ashes and a time of quiet prayer and reflection. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and repentance leading to Easter. All are welcome to come at any time during the open sanctuary hours.

## **Lenten Wednesdays: Living in Christ’s Presence**

Join us Wednesdays from 12:00–1:00 pm, February 25–April 1, in Randle Hall. for a Lenten discussion series based on *Living in Christ’s Presence* by Dallas Willard and John Ortberg. Each session features a video lecture and guided discussion. All are welcome—attend one or all sessions. An engaging and formative way to observe the season of Lent.

## **Resources for Lent:**

**Lenten Gospel Reflections:** (Available in the Narthex) - This beautiful booklet, produced by the Catholic publishing house Word on Fire, offers profound daily guidance through the Lenten season. While rooted in Catholic tradition, its insights into the Gospels transcend denominational boundaries, inviting Christians from all backgrounds to engage soberly and prayerfully with the themes of repentance, sacrifice, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

**Outgrow:** Lenten Devotional, published by the Pilgrim Press - Available for PDF at [thepilgrimpress.com](https://thepilgrimpress.com). Download here: <https://thepilgrimpress.com/products/outgrow-2026-lenten-devotional?variant=42854143754307>

**Bible:** An essential companion for all seasons. New Bibles are always available at no cost in the narthex. New Living Translation.

**Wooden Crosses:** As a complement to all of these resources, please feel free to take one of the wooden crosses available at coffee hour. A special reminder you can keep near your devotional space or share with someone you love.