

***“People of Christ  
Making a  
Difference”***

**The Transfiguration  
of Our Lord**

**February 15, 2026**

**8:30 & 11:00AM**

## **WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!**

A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. The nursery is located at the end of the hall on the right side.

Children's bags can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

Restroom facilities are located down the hall on the left side.

First Aid, Emergency Equipment, and a wheelchair are located down the hall on the right by the stairwell.

If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Agape Sunday School classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 2 year olds through adults.

Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex. Ushers are available to assist you.

If you are a visitor feel free to sign-in using the QR code. Here's how it works:  
Point your camera at the image, tap the link that appears on your screen, and  
share whatever information you desire. Thank you! Hope to see you again soon!



## **GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PEACE**

### **PRELUDE**

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

Anne Krentz Organ

(We Stand)

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children.**

**Amen.**

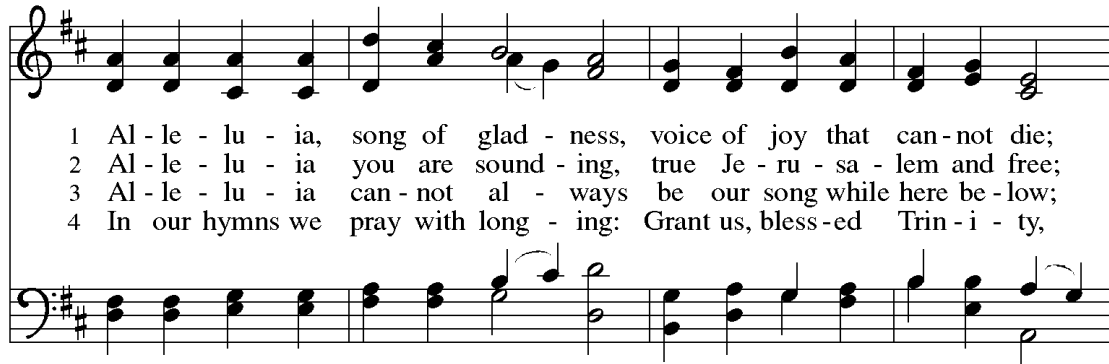
Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to us now: Our sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

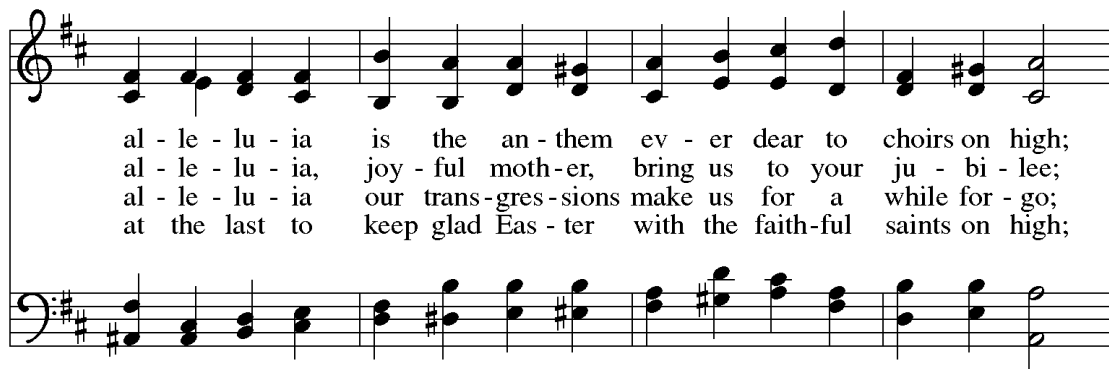
GATHERING HYMN

*"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"*

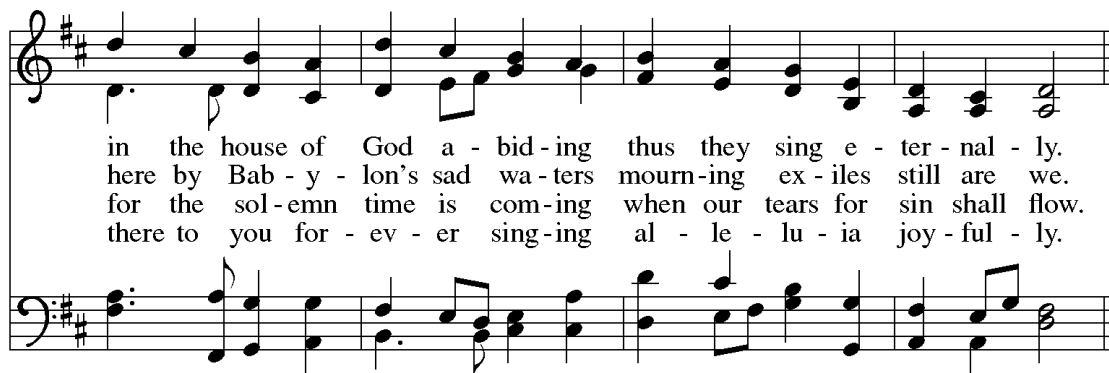
ELW 318



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;  
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



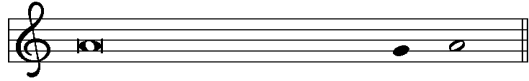
in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.  
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

**GREETING**

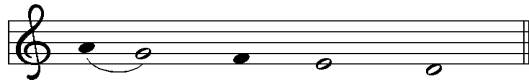
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



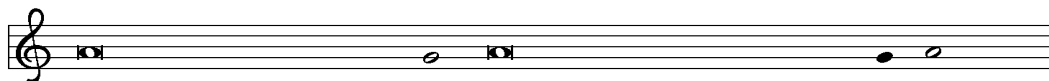
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



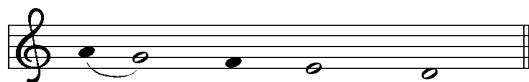
Lord, have mer - cy.



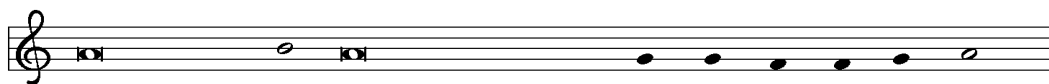
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

## INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

### FIRST READING

Exodus 24:12-18

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." <sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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 people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>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.**

### PSALM

Psalms 2



You are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

- <sup>1</sup>Why are the nations | in an uproar?  
Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?
- <sup>2</sup>**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?**
- <sup>3</sup>"Let us break their | yoke," they say;  
"let us cast off their | bonds from us."
- <sup>4</sup>**God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;  
the LORD holds them | in derision. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God | speaks to them,  
and in rage fills | them with terror.
- <sup>6</sup>**"As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king  
upon Zion, my | holy mountain."**
- <sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,  
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you.
- <sup>8</sup>**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for | your possession. R**
- <sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an | iron rod  
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery."
- <sup>10</sup>**And now, you | kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**
- <sup>11</sup>Submit to the | LORD with fear,  
and with trembling | bow in worship;
- <sup>12</sup>**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

<sup>16</sup>For 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. <sup>17</sup>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." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

(We Stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 17th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. <sup>9</sup>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.**

(We Sit)

CHILDREN'S SERMON  
SERMON

Pastor Jason  
Pastor Jason

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

ELW 834

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!



### **THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

(We Sit)

### **OFFERING**

God calls us to be generous stewards of those gifts for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online ([sslc.org](https://sslc.org) or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.



Anthem

*"Fairest Lord Jesus"*

Carol Schalk

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou God and man the Son.  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer. Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, Now and forever, more be thine! .

(We Stand)

## OFFERTORY SONG

ELW 184

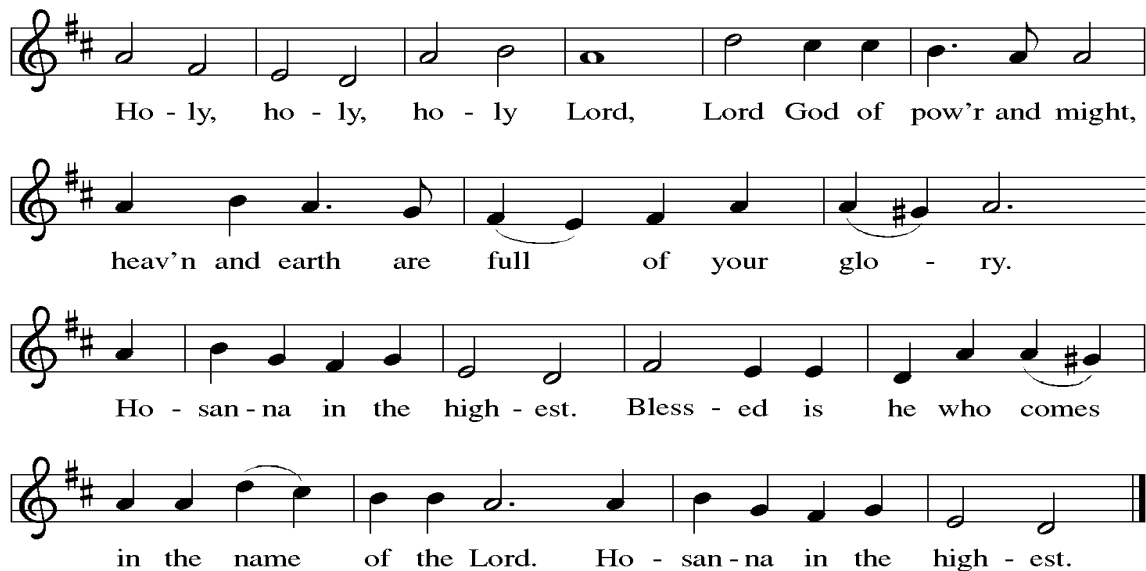
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al-so 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.

## THE PREFACE

## THE SANCTUS



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

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### 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 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

## AGNUS DEI

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.

## RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**C**hrist welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Communion will be brought to the front pews for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with and under each element alone. For those with a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music

*"Panis Angelicus"*

Cesar Franck

O Lord most holy, O loving Father, thee would we be praising alway.  
Help us to know Thee, know Thee and love Thee;  
Father, Father, grant us thy truth and grace.  
Father, father, guide and defend us.

Rule Thou our willful hearts. Keep Thou our wandering thoughts.  
In all our sorrows let us find our rest in Thee;  
And in temptation's hour, save through thy mighty power,  
thine aid O send us; Hear us in mercy.  
Show us Thy favor, so shall we live, and sing praise to Thee.

*The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.  
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the LBW (Green) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn

*"I love to Tell the Story"*

LBW 390

(We Stand)

**BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

(We Sit)

**SENDING SONG**

*"Alleluia, Song of Sweetness "*  
**(Choir Only Stanzas 1-3)**

Donald Busarow

Alleluia, song of sweetness, Voice of joy that cannot die.  
Alleluia is the anthem Ever dear to choirs on high.  
In the house of God abiding Thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia thou resoundest True Jerusalem, and free,  
Alleluia, joyful mother, All thy children sing with thee;  
But by Babylon's sad waters Mourning exiles now are we.

Alleluia cannot always Be our song while here below;  
Alleluia our transgressions Make us for awhile forego.  
For the solemn time is coming When our tears for sin must flow.

(We Stand)

**RECESSIONAL OF THE ALLELUIA**

*"Alleluia, Song of Sweetness"*  
**(All Stanza 4)**

Donald Busarow

**Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee Grant us blessed Trinity  
At the last to keep thine Easter, In our home beyond the sky,  
There to thee forever singing, Alleluia joyfully.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare your hearts.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"O Wondrous Image, O Vision Fair"*

John Dunstable

## **Reminders For This Week**

### **Lenten Devotional Books**

Devotional books for Lent are available in the hallway starting this Sunday.  
Please take one per family!

### **Shrove Tuesday, February 17**

#### **Pancake Supper including our 5th Annual Men's Bakeoff**

5:00 p.m. | Social Hall

#### **Burning of the Palms & Burial of the Alleluia**

6:00 p.m. | Social Hall

### **Ash Wednesday, February 18**

#### **Lunch**

11:45 a.m. | Social Hall

#### **Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes**

12:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

#### **Family Service with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes**

5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

This is a worship opportunity for families with younger children. The service will be very simple (similar in format to our children's service on Christmas eve) and won't last more than 30 minutes. This gives the children an opportunity to learn what Ash Wednesday and Lent is all about but still get home early since it is a school night. We would love for you to join us!

#### **Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes**

7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

# **Sunday, February 15, 2026**

## **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

### **Finding God in the Clouds**

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. The mountaintop moments in today's readings were different: awe-inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God's presence is where we get both lost *and* found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, "not a tame lion" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God's place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground.

Eventually, of course, the time comes to leave that mountain, walking with Jesus down to the valley and getting dusty with the ashes of daily life. Many churches symbolically "roll up the Alleluias" today, recognizing that this is the end of a glorious season celebrating Christ's light and the entrance to a no-less-real season of Jesus' and our own lives, the "valley" season of Lent. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Olivia and Katie Eargle by Reuben Eargle.

**SERVING TODAY:**

**Ushers:** (8:30) Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Pat Bowen, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Deon Fink, Vernon Hester, Blaine Richardson, and Chad Geary;  
(11:00) Alon Cox, Heyward Addy, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, and Matt Martin

**Cantor:** Melissa Rawl

**Soloist:** Austin Means

**Oboist:** Judi Shirley

**Handbell Ringers:** Elese Cegelis, Carol Lunsford, Cathy Mathias, Patricia Masek

**Greeters:** (8:30) Craig and Jodi McFarland; (11:00) Brittany Herring

**Lay Readers:** (8:30) Lacy Geary; (11:00) Julie Gies

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Ryan Johnson; (11:00) Shannon Burnett

**Order of St. Stephen's:** (8:30) [A] Shaun Wessinger [C] Ryan Kennedy;  
(11:00) [A] Sarah Ellis Stafford [C] Mary Beth Stafford

**The Church Staff**

**Website: [www.sslc.org](http://www.sslc.org)**

The Rev. Jason T. Antley

The Rev. Ralph G. Hill

Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life

Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator

Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist

Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director

Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

**Sunday School Information:**

**Locations for Children's Classes**

**Locations for Adult Classes**

<b>Nursery</b> – Room #105	<b>Agape Adult Class</b> Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
<b>2—4 year olds &amp; 5K</b> – Room #103	<b>Saints &amp; Sinners with PJ and PR</b> Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
<b>1<sup>st</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Room # 216	<b>Women Digging Deeper</b> Parlor
<b>6<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Room #212	For those not attending a Sunday School class but waiting on a child to get out of one, feel free to sit in the Social Hall!
<b>9<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Room #217	If you are interested in beginning a new Sunday School class please contact Mrs. Shannon.

If you are not receiving the weekly announcements and monthly newsletter via email and would like to receive them, please email Shannon ([Shannon@ssl.org](mailto:Shannon@ssl.org)) so she can add you to the distribution list.

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