



Sunday, February 15, 2026 Transfiguration of Our Lord

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Rooted in our Tradition, Open to Yours

Welcome and Prelude

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.



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!

Greeting

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



Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, 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.

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.

The Reading: Psalm 2

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 heaven is laughing;
the LORD holds them in derision.

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

⁶ "As for me, I have anointed 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 begotten you.

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

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 refuge in God!

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



The Gospel: **Matthew 17:1-9 Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.**

Sermon

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

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.

Prayers of the People

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.

A brief silence

Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. **Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross.** Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. **Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth.** Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. **Defend any who are in danger.** Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve, especially Judy Prinz, Donna, Todd, Ted & Jacqui Jarmol, Larry Tucker, Bud Crookshank, Carolyn Pogany, Doris Dickman, Diana Gerber, Janet Bergstrom, Dan & Mary Gleghorn, Beth, and all those we hold in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. **Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy.** Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Transforming God, you bring life from death. **We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star.** Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

The Sharing of the Peace

Special Music

How Can I Keep from Singing
arr. Cathy Moglebust

Jubellation Bell Choir

Meal

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

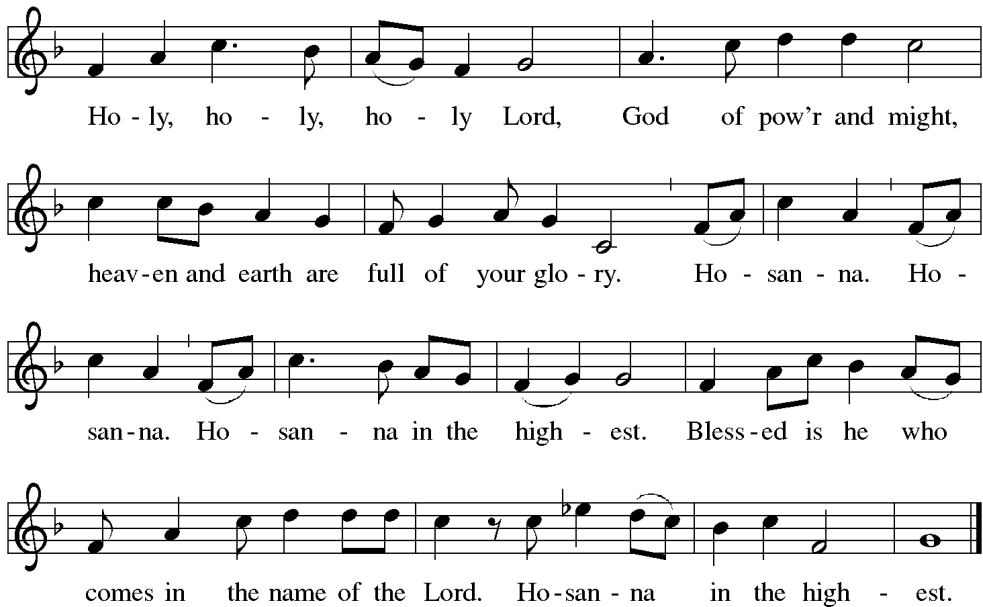
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcomes death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opens to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

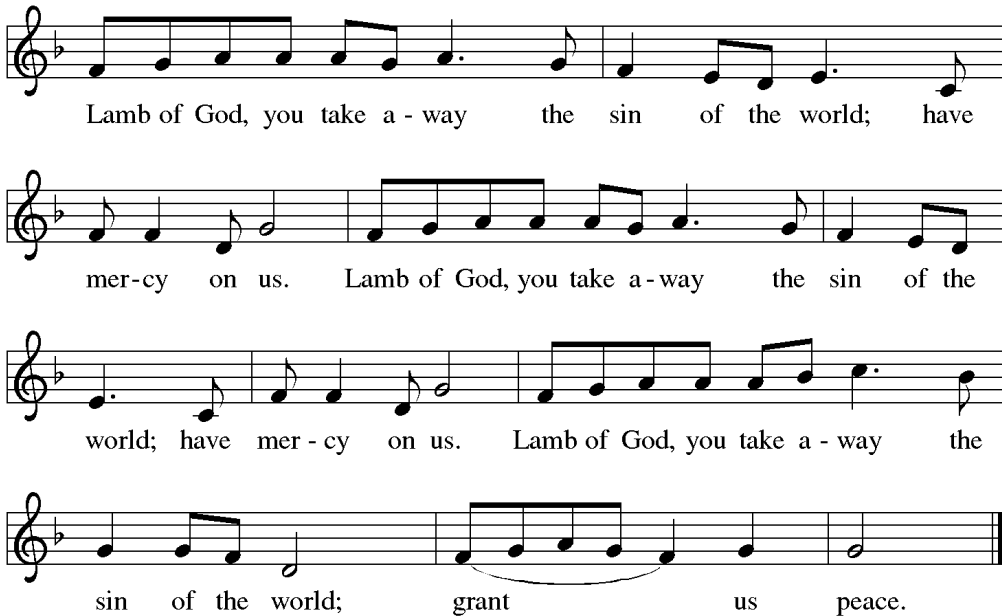
The Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. We ask children who have not had First Communion instruction, or adults who do not wish to receive communion, to keep their hands folded and they will receive a blessing.

**Gluten free and apple juice options are available.*



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.

Post-Communion Prayer

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.**

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

ELW 318 vs 1,3,4



- 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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

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*Please join us in the narthex
immediately following the service
to celebrate the life of
Ginny Dorsey*

