

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



He was transfigured before them ...
and his clothes became dazzling white ...

Mark 9:2-3, NRSV

EPIPHANY REVEALS OUR LIFE WITH CHRIST:
A Glimpse of His True Glory
Transfiguration Sunday

February 11, 2024



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service



We began this worship series in the Jordan River. At his baptism, Jesus heard his Father's glorious voice: "You are my Son, whom I love" (Mark 1:11). From that day, in word and deed, Jesus began to reveal more about himself. He demonstrated the extent of his authority and power and love. Along the way, we had an epiphany. Jesus has to be the very Son of God! Yet, Jesus looked so normal, like an ordinary carpenter or your average rabbi or just another prophet. Until today. We have traveled from the river to the mountain. Today, on the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus gives us a glimpse of his true glory. As we see him in his dazzling brilliance, the Father speaks again, this time to us: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

This final epiphany prepares us for the journey of Lent where we will witness the most glorious work that Jesus would do when he came down from this mountain.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist Sue Kulhanek

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting One

Setting One begins on page 154 in the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

389 How Good, Lord, to Be Here

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, 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 worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

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Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



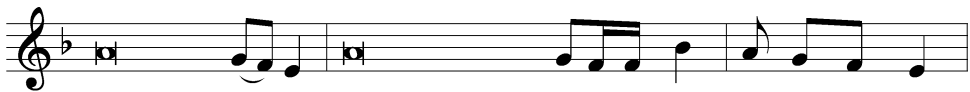
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



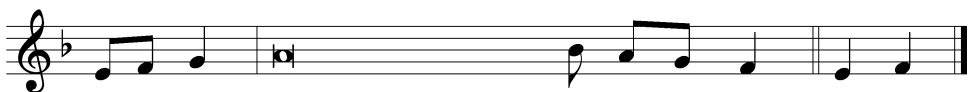
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

2 Kings 2:1–12a

Elijah was taken to heaven in a glorious way. He would appear with Jesus in an even more glorious way.

¹ When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah was traveling with Elisha from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

³ The sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?”

Then he said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.”

⁴ Then Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here because the LORD has sent me to Jericho.”

But he said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

⁵ Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?”

He said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.”

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

But he said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.

⁷ Then fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood and watched them from a distance, while the two of them were standing at the Jordan. ⁸ Elijah took his cloak, folded it together, and struck the water. The water divided to the right and to the left. Then the two of them crossed on dry land.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask me for whatever I can do for you before I am taken from you.”

Then Elisha said, “Let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.”

¹⁰ He said, “You have asked for a difficult thing. If you see me being taken from you, it will surely be yours. But if not, then it will not.”

¹¹ While they were walking and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire came and separated them. So Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha was watching and crying out, “My father! My father! Israel’s chariot and its charioteers!” (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

2C Why Are Nations Raging
Please sing beginning with verse 3.



1 Why are na - tions rag - ing and con - spir - ing
2 But the Lord has scorn on them, laugh - ing and en -
3 God's de - cree un - to the King tells us what the
4 There - fore, lead - ers of the earth, serve the LORD with



plots in vain? Rul - ers of the world rise up,
throned on high. God brings wrath up - on their work;
LORD did say: "You are my own ho - ly Son;
ho - ly fear; trem - bling come be - fore the throne



weav - ing webs of death and pain. Then a - gainst the
filled with an - ger God re - plies: "It is my own
I've be - got - ten you this day. Ask of me and
or God's an - ger will ap - pear. Kiss God's feet in



LORD they cry, and a - gainst God's ho - ly Son, "Let us
ho - ly will that the Christ shall ev - er reign, and on
I will make all the na - tions your own stay. These pos -
trem - bling awe or the LORD will use the rod, mak - ing



tear their bonds from us and with their con - trol be done."
Zi - on's ho - ly hill my A - noint - ed I'll main - tain."
ses - sions you shall rule, strong as i - ron smash - ing clay."
beg - gars of all kings. Blest are those who trust in God.

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Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even though we were not present at the Transfiguration, we still see Christ's glory through the light of the gospel.

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing. ⁴ In the case of those people, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from clearly seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is God's image.

⁵ Indeed, we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," is the same one who made light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 9:7



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A cloud covered them, and a voice came / from the cloud:

"This is my Son, whom I love. Lis - / ten to him!" **Refrain**

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Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

Jesus gives us a glimpse of his true glory.

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain where they were alone by themselves. There he was transfigured in front of them. ³ His clothes became radiant, dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say because they were terrified.

⁷ A cloud appeared and overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him."

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

388 Down from the Mount of Glory

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Always keep your people faithful to you. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ in the Word and sacraments. During all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus.

Keep us safe and protect us from the tricks and treachery of the devil.

Give us compassion for those stumbling in darkness and empower us to proclaim Christ to all who have no faith. Grant us courage to be unashamed of the light you have given us.

Help us carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do.

Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear. Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing.

Grant them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on.

We pray for our families and those in our circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone whose needs we hold in our hearts.

Reveal your gracious presence to all who suffer.

Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without Christ. As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's sacrifice on the cross.

Give us hearts full of faith in him.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and all for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the world.

Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

† We extended calls to Mrs. Michelle Korth to teach in the lower grades and to Mr. Micah Biesterfeld to teach middle grades and be Vice Principal.

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Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.\



Hymn

713 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Stand

Prayer

Based on Psalm 2

Lord, keep us safe in the refuge of your anointed Son, so that when the nations rage against him, we are not terrified. You have begotten him from eternity and have seated him on your throne in heaven. Let us see him as he truly is, the One who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

522 Beautiful Savior



Take Home Questions

1. 2 Kings 2 introduces us to Elijah who joined Jesus on the Mount of Glory. How did Elijah's departure from this world described in these verses demonstrate his status as a special man of God?
 - a. Review what you know about him from other Old Testament accounts. (Page through 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 2 if needed.) How did his prophetic ministry do the same?
 - b. Considering that ministry, for what reasons was Elijah one of the people that appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration?
2. The transfiguration account is a clear example of Jesus' glory. According to 2 Corinthians 4, how does Jesus' glory still shine today?
 - a. What is so glorious about the gospel?
 - b. Why do some people not see this glory?
 - c. How might the devil attempt to veil this glory from us? (Hint: consider our natural human response to suffering, shame, and sacrifice, all of which encapsulate the gospel work of Christ.)
3. Peter's response to Jesus' transfiguration in Mark 9:5 is, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
 - a. Why was Peter right to say this?
 - b. Why was Peter wrong to say this? (Note the context of the end of Mark 8.)

News & Announcements



Sunday's Bible Study: Meeting the Up and Downs of Life When We Recover from a Serious Illness

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Midweek Lenten Services Begin This Wednesday

February 14 is Ash Wednesday. We take extra time during the season of Lent to be in God's Word and a contemplating Christ's saving work for us. Join us Wednesdays, Feb. 14-March 20, at either 4:00 or 6:30 pm for special worship services. The Ash Wednesday service will include imposition of ashes as well as the Lord's Supper. A fellowship meal will be served between 4:45 and 6:00 pm each Wednesday. If you are able, please bring a dessert to share.

Volunteer for Easter for Kids

This year's Easter for Kids is Saturday, March 16 from 9:00 to 11:45 am. Lots of volunteers are needed. Some help is needed before the event to hang posters, prep materials, and set up. The day of the event, we need activity leaders and people to shepherd groups of children between activities. Teens and adults are welcome to volunteer. For more information, including directions for activities, see the Ministry Table.

Hygiene Drive

The annual Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive is underway throughout Central Wisconsin. There are donation bins by the Ministry Table in our Welcome Center through March 3. The personal care and cleaning products needed include toilet paper, dental care, deodorant, diapers, feminine care products, shampoo, bath soap, laundry detergent, razors, garbage bags, and first aid. Your donations will stay in Wisconsin Rapids.

Thank You, Thrivent

Our church recently received a donation of \$686 through the Thrivent Financial program, Thrivent Choice. Through this program, Thrivent members choose where Thrivent sends some of their charitable donations. We thank Thrivent and those people who participated in the program this month.

Anniversary Planning Committee

Next January, our church will celebrate its 125th anniversary. Whether you are interested in history or know how to throw a party, we could use your help planning our celebration. Please contact with Fred Camacho (715-323-4566) or Seth Kroells (507-676-7142).

Senior Social Meets Early

The Senior Social will meet this Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 1:30-3:30 pm. The early meeting time is to accommodate those who want to attend worship at 4:00 pm.

Work for the WELS

Put your job experience to work serving the Lord at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha, WI. For more information, visit WELS.net and look for Careers in the menu at the bottom of the page. Current postings include...

Benefits Specialist - Primary responsibilities are administration and customer service for the WELS Pension Plan and the WELS 403(b) Shepherd Plan, which provide retirement benefits to WELS workers and their beneficiaries.

Loan Officer - Key contact for WELS congregations interested in purchasing / expanding land and facilities for the purpose of gospel outreach. Assemble, examine, evaluate, and recommend decisions on loan requests made to the WELS Church Extension Fund.

Warm Up Your Home and Your Tummy

Enjoy a fresh from the oven apple pie or apple crisp. Heat up some yummy soup. We still have some of these frozen items from our Bake & Craft Sale as well as cranberry relish and apple sauce. If you are interested in any of these items, please contact the church office.

Donate Auction Items to NLHS

The Together We Shine fundraiser at Northland Lutheran High School is one month away. Please consider donating raffle items, baskets, gift cards, trips, or services for their silent auction. They will also hold a soup cook off. If you want to participate, please contact NLHS at 715-359-3400.

WELS Night at the Herd

Feb. 24

All WELS members are invited out to a night of fellowship at Oshkosh Arena on Saturday Feb. 24 at 7:00 pm. The Herd is the Milwaukee Bucks NBA G League affiliate. Get your tickets at fevogm.com/WELS.


Women's Retreats

Pathways to Christ Women's Retreat will be held March 1-3 in Oshkosh, WI. Learn more at pathwaystochrist.org.

WELS Coulee Women's Retreat will be held April 20 in Onalaska, WI. Learn more at WELSCWR.wixsite.com/retreat.

WELS Women's Ministry Conference will be held July 28-30 in Pewaukee, WI. Learn more at WELSWMConference.net.



Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship	
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria	
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-6th	
	10:30 AM	Worship	
	6:30 PM	Connect Group at the home of Fred & Joyce Camacho	
Monday	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony	
	5:30 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym	
	6:30 PM	Connect Group at the home of Carole & John Melso	
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop	
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center	
	1:30 PM	Connect Group at Wisconsin Rapids Health Services	
	6:30 pm	Stephen Ministers in the Resource Center	
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service	
	1:30 PM	Senior Social in the Resource Center	
	4:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship Service	
	4:45 PM	Fellowship meal in the cafeteria	
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice	
	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship Service	
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop	
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom	
Saturday	8:30 AM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Bible Study Room	
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship	
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria	
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-6th	
	10:30 AM	Worship	

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 230

Next Sunday

Theme: Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations

Readings: Genesis 22:1-18; Romans 8:31-39; Mark 1:12-15

Upcoming Events

Feb. 15-16 ~ No School / Teachers' Conference in Oconomowoc

Feb. 20 ~ Delegates Meeting at NLHS

Feb. 24 ~ Kindergarten Round Up

Mar. 16 ~ Easter for Kids



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