

## Last Sunday after Epiphany Transfiguration of Our Lord

**February 15, 2026**

*The Good News for Today: The glory is always there, even when we can't see it.*

*Thank you for worshiping with us at St. John's. Please fill out your yellow attendance card and place it in the offering plate when we collect the offering later in the service.*

*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 Music

**Prelude: Cornerstone – (Myrin)**

*STAND*

**Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine – ELW 671 (Red Book)**

*Refrain*

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on  
fire  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and  
mercy  
Send forth Your word, Lord,  
and let there be light

1 Lord, the light of Your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon  
us  
Set us free by the truth You now  
bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me (*Refrain*)

2 Lord, I come to Your awesome  
presence  
From the shadows into Your  
radiance  
By the blood, I may enter Your  
brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my  
darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me (*Refrain*)

## 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.**

## Welcome & Greeting

Welcome to St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

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

Let us pray... 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.**

*SIT*

# The Readings

## 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.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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.**

<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 refuge in God!**

## 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.*

<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.**

*STAND*

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## 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.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventeenth chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Six days later, 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 bright as light. <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 set up three tents 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 a voice from the cloud 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 raised their eyes, 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*SIT*

Sermon – “Taken Up in Glory” – Pastor Bo Bannister

*STAND*

## Hymn: Joyful Is the Dark – ACS 1096

1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,  
2 Joy - ful is the dark, Spir - it of the deep,  
3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad - owed sta - ble floor;  
4 Joy - ful is the dark, cool - ness of the tomb,  
5 Joy - ful is the dark, depth of love di - vine,

roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:  
wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,  
an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,  
wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;  
roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,

maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,  
silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,  
as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,  
nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:  
ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.

Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.  
swoop-ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.  
hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.  
dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.  
Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

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## The Nicene Creed

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

**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 Intercession

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. 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.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

*SIT*

## Announcements

*Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the Narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.*

## Children's Message

## Offering

*STAND*

**Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow – ELW 885 (Red Book)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

## 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.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

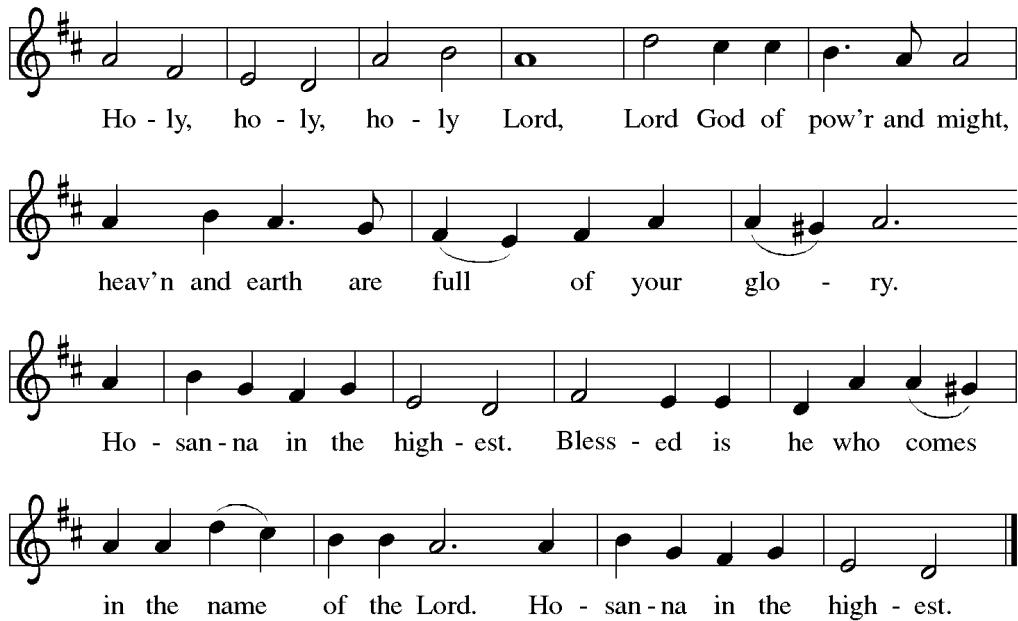
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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. In being baptized by John in Jordan's waters, Jesus took his place with sinners, and your voice proclaimed him as your Son. Like a dove, the Spirit descended upon him, anointing him as the Christ, to bring good news to the poor and proclaim release to the captives, to restore sight to the blind and free the oppressed. We praise you that in our baptism we are joined to Christ and, with all the baptized, are called to share his ministry. Therefore we join our voices with all the baptized through all times and places, as well as all creation, both visible and invisible, to proclaim the glory of your name:

## 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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

Without any doubt, the mystery of godliness is great:

Christ was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

While on earth, to the very end, Jesus loved those whom he had been given, and prayed that his love, his joy, and his closeness with his heavenly Father might be in them. On the night he was betrayed, he took bread, and having blessed it, he broke it and gave it to his beloved friends, saying, “Take, eat, this is my body which was given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took wine and, having given thanks for it, poured it out and gave the cup to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you. This is my blood which is poured out for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

God, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

And now, as Christ our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray:

## 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.**

*SIT*

## Invitation to Communion

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

## Distribution of the Elements

### Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*STAND*

## Post-Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you keep you in his Grace.

**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.**

## 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.**

## Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story – ELW 661 (Red Book)

1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

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