**Worship Plan for Sunday, March 2, 2025** **\* Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**Introduction to the day**

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God’s glory in the word and in the supper and who are being “transformed into the same image” by God’s Spirit.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Chaos and Mystery**

Ghost-like prophets from generations past, a face suddenly transformed, dazzling clothes, frightening fog, and a mysterious voice: today’s gospel text might sound like the beginning of a strange science fiction novel. Indeed, this passage has mystified theologians, biblical scholars, preachers, and followers of Jesus for centuries. What do we make of such an unusual tale?

Perhaps the chaos and mystery are part of the point: after all, who can fully describe an encounter with the Divine? How can we even begin to understand the glory of God? If this text leaves us speechless, we are in good company with God-seekers across the ages. Some experiences simply defy tidy explanations, and the transfiguration is one of them.

This story offers us glimpses of some of the most profound mysteries of our faith. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, the one sent and affirmed by God. Jesus is the glory of God revealed among us. In him, we find our past, present, and future all wrapped up into one. Even the most devout disciples might find themselves confounded by these revelations. Perhaps we are given these truths only in glimpses to spark our curiosity and wonder, and to let the gift of faith reveal their meaning.

This story also assures us that although Jesus shines with God’s glory on the mountaintop, he is sent back into the day-to-day world to carry on the work of life-saving mercy, healing, and justice. Like Peter, James, and John, we might encounter God on the mountaintops of life and be tempted to set up camp there. But God is the one who leaves the mountain for the often-unglamorous work of serving others. We trust that here, too, God is with us—not just on the mountaintops but in the valleys and everywhere in between, transforming us for the work of discipleship here and now in the ordinariness of life.

**Processional**

**AM: Welcome**

Good morning! It's wonderful to see all of you this morning! Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, where grace and love abound and the Holy Spirit uplifts and inspires us. A special welcome to those joining us on line, to those of you who are here for the first time, and to our guest pastor, Rex Wignall. Exciting things are happening here during our search for a permanent pastor, and everyone is encouraged to participate fully, whether you are a first-time visitor, or have been around for a while.

**AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by the Ehrigs in celebration of Debbie’s mom’s 93rd birthday.

Lent is upon us! Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, March 4th and we will have a worship service at 5:00. The following Wednesday, we’ll kick off our “Soup and Study” at 5:00 and that will continue every Wednesday through the end of Lent, so be on the lookout for sign-up sheets!

Pr. Ken Puccio is willing to provide the imposition of ashes and a devotion to the members living at Pacifica if there are some unable to attend church on the 4th! Please contact him directly.

*Beyond Question*, part of the ELCA Book of Faith series, is a transformative journey through Lent. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus uses questions to change the lives and deepen the discipleship of those who follow Him. Beginning on Thursday, March 6, at 7:00 P.M. and continuing every Thursday throughout this Lenten Zoom series, we will open Scripture and encounter Jesus and His transformative questions. Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com for a list of the weekly topics and info on how to join in.

For the month of March, we are collecting canned chili, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer. For the month of February, we collected 255 individual protein bars!

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office.

**P: Silence**

Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

**P: Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**P: 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.**

This is the day that the Lord has made,

**let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 634**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!* (ELW 634, v. 1, 2)**

**P: Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**P: Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Children's Chat**

**P: Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**Lector: First Reading:** Exodus 34:29-35

29 Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. 32 Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; 34 but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35 the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Psalmody:** Psalm 99

1 The Lord is king; let the people tremble. The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

2 **The Lord, great in Zion, is high above all peoples.**

3 Let them confess God’s name, which is great and awesome; God is the Holy One.

4 **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God’s footstool; God is the Holy One.

6 **Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O Lord, they called upon you, and you answered them,**

7 you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

8 **O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and worship upon God’s holy hill; for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

**Amen.**

**Lector: Second Reading:** 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

12 Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, 13 not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. 14 But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. 15 Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; 16 but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. 4:1 Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Please stand for the gospel***

**Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 151)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**P: Gospel:** Luke 9:28-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

28Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said. 34While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen listen to him!" 36When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: “*Two Shining Faces*” Pr. Rex Wignall**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 671**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day: *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671)**

**AM: Apostle's Creed**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**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.**

***Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession***

**Pastor and Assisting Minister: Prayers of Intercession**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and, in the years, to come. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts, especially Lynn Bennett; the family of Rudy Bosinger; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**P: Offering**

Let us remember at this time of Offering, that all we have and all we are given are gifts from God. Our offerings of time, talent and treasures are expressions of gratitude to God for all we have received. May we show abundant gratitude.

**AM: Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

***Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along***

**Musical Offering: *My Lighthouse***

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**P: Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

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.**

**P: Preface (ELW p. 153)**

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy (all sing) (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**P: Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

As you are comfortable, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. All of God’s children are welcome to Christ’s table.

Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you’ve received the communion elements. Please commune the bread first, turn over the vessel and then carefully open the grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

**P: Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**During Distribution: *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (ELW 313)***

 ***Here is Bread (ELW 483)***

 ***Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life (ELW 472)***

**P: Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**AM: Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**P: 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.

**Amen.**

**P: Please turn to hymn 815**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)**

**AM: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Invitation**

The Church Council Members invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can meet and welcome you. All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

**THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

Monday, the 3rd: Council Meeting is at 1:00; Endowment Fund Board meets at 4:00

Tuesday, the 4th: Worship & Music meets at 10:00

Wednesday, the 5th: Ash Wednesday worship begins at 5:00 with Pr. Rich

Thursday, the 6th: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00; Pr. Ken’s Lenten Zoom

Bible Study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 7th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 9th: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rich Ajer

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