February 15, 2026 ☩

Transfiguration of Our Lord

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold.**

P: Indicates the Presider. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister.

We Gather

Prelude - German Hymn Medley setting by Nancy Raabe
(*Von Himmel Hoch, Ein Feste Burg, In Dir is Freude*)

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 867 "In Thee is Gladness"

***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.

***Apostolic Greeting** P**:** 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 -** page 3, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

***Hymn of Praise** – page 4, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

***Prayer of the Day**

P: 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.**

Scripture Acclamation - "Come and See"

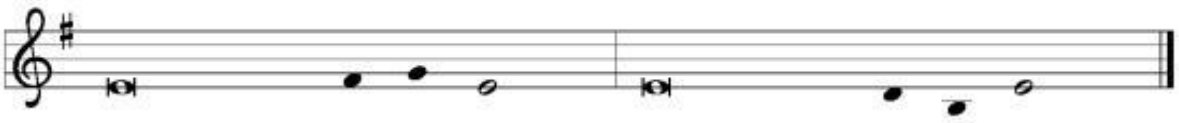
We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

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.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 2- *The psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse.*



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 heav- | en 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 anoint- | ed 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 be- | gotten 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 ref- | uge in God!

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

16 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. 17 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." 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 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. 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** – page 7, *Now the Feast and Celebration* "Alleluia"

***Gospel:** Matthew 17: 1-9

The Gospel of Matthew, the 17th Chapter. **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 – Pastor Chris Culuris

*__Hymn__ – no 315 "How Good, Lord, to Be Here!"

*__The Apostles' Creed__ –
Together let us profess our faith.

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 Intercession__
AM: 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. *After each petition*: Merciful God,
receive our prayer.
AM: 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.**

*__Sign of Peace__ P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering – For electronic giving please scan the QR on announcement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music –

*__Offertory hymn__– page 9, *Now the Feast and Celebration* "As the Grains of Wheat"

*__Offering Prayer__ AM: 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.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ - *(sung)* page 10, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ – page 10, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__Words of Institution__

*__The 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

*__Invitation to the Table__ – P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion continuously.*
Lamb of God – page 13, *Now the Feast and Celebration*
Hymn –no 838 "Beautiful Savior"
Hymn no 661 "I Love to Tell the Story"

Prayer After Communion
P: 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.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

Thanksgiving for the Retirement of a Debt

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 671 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: 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.**
AM: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

*__Postlude__ – "Oh, Wondrous Image Vision Fair" *Deo Gracias* setting by Edwin Childs

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist: Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: John Bipes
Director of Choirs: Sarah Chambers

Usher:
Communion Preparer: Bill & Cheryl Kautt
Communion Servers: Aileen Bipes, Cindy Nadeau

Tech: Brett Petersen
Bread Baker: Betsy Bolint

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Gretchen Bray, Lenore Schnobrich, Gloria Kane, Harvey Kane, Lisa Handel-Dalvand, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Ruth Edberg, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett Paul, Chaplain Ben Hilding, Mary Ann Scharf, David Ribar, Nate Tuener (family friend of Bob and Rhoda Stenson), Bruce Gray, and Sandy Grochow.

Acknowledgments

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- Following worship today, please join us for **fellowship** as we celebrate paying off our building mortgage.
- **We are collecting money for rental assistance** to aid families in our community whose wage earners have been detained by ICE. Cash in a labeled envelope marked "rental assistance" is preferred (available on the table outside sanctuary).
- **Pontius Pilate's Passion**: This Lenten season, join Annalise Rivas for an exploration of the Passion story like you've never seen it before. Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:30pm in the Pioneer Parlor, February 11 - April 8.
- **Ash Wednesday worship**, Feb. 18, 7pm with Holy Communion.
- **Holy Communion Prep and Serving Training** – next Sun., 11:15am, in the sacristy.
- **We are collecting shampoo and body wash** for the St Peter Area Food Shelf during February. Please drop donations in the box in the gathering space.
- **Stump the Pastor – Wednesday, February 25.** Place questions in the box outside the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **MN Valley Conference Assembly** meets today – 1pm, at St. Paul's, Gaylord.
- Church Office will be **closed tomorrow** in observance of President's Day.
- **WOW Zone Youth Event** – next Sun, Feb. 22, 2-4pm. Bowling, laser tag and video games. All families and friends invited. Please RSVP to Deacon Brenda by February 18.
- **Meal Volunteers Needed:** Please consider being a meal server or help with the clean-up crew for our Wednesday meals in February. Sign up in the narthex or at bit.ly/flcmeals1-2
- Order forms are available for **Easter flowers** for the altar. Please see ordering sheets on the table in the gathering space.
- It is with great sorrow that we have been informed that Matthew, the son of our former pastor Mark Solyst, died in his sleep. Those wishing to **convey sympathy** may send cards to: Rev. Mark and Carol Solyst 1232 Heritage Court LaCrosse, WI 54601

Please use the QR code below for electronic giving and thank you!

QR offering code