



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC**

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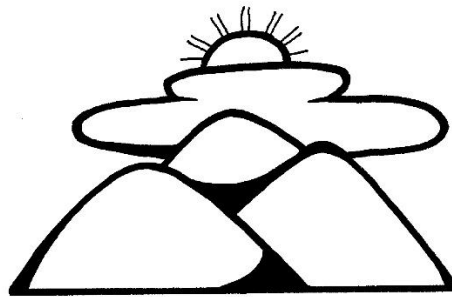
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## **Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday**

**February 15, 2026**

**ELW Holy Communion, Setting 10**

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.

*We at Grace Lutheran Church strive to reflect and proclaim the love of God shown to us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit by providing an inclusive and supportive environment through loving care and community service.*

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in person or online! We appreciate your contribution to the community today: with your voice, your presence, and just the blessing that you are. May you be nurtured by God's Word, empowered by the love of Christ, and stirred by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this service this day, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran Church worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hən̓q̓əmiñəḥ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

## GATHERING

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day in worship, for our God is holy and just yet treats us with grace and mercy. As even in our sin and shortcomings, God declares us as beloved children and equips us with strength, wisdom, and community. And so we submit to the Lord, not so much in fear and trembling, but in worship, in adoration, and in gratitude for the love that has been first given to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**GATHERING HYMN:** Arise, Your Light Has Come! (#314)

### GREETING

The giving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the life-changing love of God, and the fulfilling fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (p. 204)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of majesty and might, you have blessed us with the revelation of your glory. Increase our faith, that we be able to hear your voice calling us, empowering us, and leading us on your paths of righteousness and peace, that we might boldly stand in the light of your grace, and listen to your words of love and forgiveness, spoken to us by Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

A reading from Exodus.

*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.*

<sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> 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.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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: Psalm 2

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup> **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?**

<sup>3</sup> "Let us break their yoke," they say;  
"let us cast off their bonds from us."

<sup>4</sup> **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
the LORD holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup> Then in wrath God speaks to them,  
and in rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup> **"As for me, I have anointed my king  
upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

<sup>7</sup> Let me announce the decree of the LORD,  
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

<sup>8</sup> **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!**

## **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

A reading from 2 Peter.

*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> 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.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 205)**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

O God, be our light. Show us the way. Make us attentive to your presence, your voice, your very Word, that we more readily and faithfully navigate this world with mercy, compassion, and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

So this is 50.

If you don't know what I'm talking about, I actually turned this never-to-be-mentioned-again age about a week and a half ago. And if I were being honest, I feel the same. Like, nothing really changed, nothing big at least. I wasn't struck down by arthritis or anything. My hair didn't explode into a ball of grey or fall out, not really I don't think. Nor did I instantly forget why I went into the room that I was in, not that time anyway. It just seemed like a normal day just like the 18,000 or so that I've experienced before it. So why shall it not be ever mentioned again?

Well, it's the hype. The idea of growing older. The notion that so many of us have or are subliminally taught that young=good and not-as-young=not-as-good. I admit that I've totally fallen for it when it comes to myself and my own age, and that mentality still lives rent-free in my head. So when these milestone birthdays come for me, I cringe a little. I might still celebrate by taking like a week off work, but the thought of it still weighs on me.

Because growing up is hard.

I know, "growing up" can be a very subjective term, especially for people who collect stupid amounts of toys and continue to play with Lego, and find the most asinine things funny. I'm not naming any names, but I'm sure all of us know people... or perhaps even a pastor... who are like that. But time waits for no one and deny it as we may, we change. We mature. Our responsibility grows.

And I think that's the scary part.

Because as old as I am, I don't have all the answers. As I add another year of experience under my belt, I'm still not sure what to do. While I can see this growing mountain of need, I don't

know if I have it in me to even do anything about it. I want to, I really really do. But I'm just not sure I can.

That's why I cringe when I think about my age. I shirk away from my increasing responsibility and expectation. I'm scared of growing older.

Maybe you've felt this as well. Maybe you *are* feeling it. Maybe you also know the fear and borderline unwillingness to accept who we are, what we should do, and to where we're called.

I think this is what the disciples might have been feeling near the end of today's gospel lesson. Of course, today we get the Transfiguration story, which is super appropriate for Transfiguration Sunday, and we're likely familiar with the details. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John, up on this mountain and for some reason unbeknownst to anyone, Jesus is transfigured. In that, his entire figure is transformed. Not into a car of some kind, a plane, or a retro cassette player as cool as that would be, but into pretty much pure dazzling light. And then just as inexplicably, Moses and Elijah show up and are just chillin there with Jesus.

Scary, right? At least I know I would be afraid if I saw this. But those who were there witnessing it are like Jesus' inner circle, his closest friends, the executive of the council or his mutual ministry committee if you will, so to them, this could have been like a regular Tuesday. I mean, look at Peter's reaction, it doesn't really sound like one of fear, as he just casually suggests they pitch a few tents for Jesus and his newly appeared friends. Talk about asinine things, because I think this is hilarious.

But again, Peter's reaction doesn't sound like he's scared. He sounds normal. Calm. Thinking clearly, even. Well, at least until his bright idea is interrupted by this voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

And wouldn't you know it, *that* is when the disciples finally show a reaction. They were overcome by fear at the sound of this voice. They fell to the ground.

Not because Jesus was emanating the light of a thousand suns. Not because Moses and Elijah were somehow back from the dead and recognisable without the help of pictures or drawings or AI. Not even because that tent idea was actually laughably ridiculous.

But I think they were afraid because the voice told them to listen to Jesus. They fell to the ground because God's glory shone around them and said that Jesus is the example, the standard, the blueprint of what we're called to be. They cringed in fear because they're realising that gone are the days of goofing off under the sycamore tree, hanging out in the fishing boat, engaging in the ways of the world. But this ish just got real. They had to grow up. They needed to pull up their socks. They were called to listen to Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world.

And that is scary.

I mean, what does it even mean to listen to Jesus? To have all the answers? To know what to say and when? To have it all together when it comes to ministry, service, and community? I don't know if I can do that. I don't think the disciples thought they could do that. I don't know if any of us in the room or beyond would ever be able to do that. No offense, but that sounds hard.

Like life is hard enough, but claiming this faith that has been so divisive over the past two millennia of human history is darn near impossible. Acting our age is something we might not want to do but following the immovable moral compass of Jesus is overwhelming. Owning up to how old we are might be something we avoid, but knowing that we are called by the God who created the universe is debilitatingly terrifying, enough to make us drop down to our knees in anxiety, fear, and maybe a bit of denial of who we are, whose we are, and what we are to do and how we are to act in this world that is so broken and full of hatred and evil.

But maybe it's just in my head.

Because in these fears and anxieties, Jesus remains with us. In our feelings of overwhelming trepidation, Jesus is present in our community through his teachings and example. In our inability to believe or maybe even accept that we've been called, Jesus puts his hand on us, tells us to get up and not be afraid, and then holds us in arms of unending compassion and love.

See I don't think we're called to be perfect. I don't think we are led away from things that give us joy like our toys and corny jokes. I don't think that listening to Jesus means that we can't make any mistakes, have doubts, or feel unsure or inadequate, but I think listening to Jesus is to hear his comforting promises of community and peace, to see his calming and gracious presence, and to follow his example not of extreme moral excellence, but of compassion, mercy, and love.

Compassion for those who might not be as fortunate or blessed as we are. Mercy for those who make mistakes and inadvertently hurt others just as we do. Love to see the value and worth in every person, as every person is a declared and welcomed child of God. That includes all of you. Me. Everyone who ever lived, lives, or will live. All.

I know, that might still seem scary as heck, because it's hard to have that compassion for others that we might not like, to show mercy to the undeserving, and to even love those who are particularly unlovable. But in our listening, we can see what is possible. In our following, we will be empowered and strengthened for service. In our being children of God, we too are changed and transformed, probably not into dazzling bright light, but to further reflect God's promises, to display God's grace, and to exude God's love.

And it's there, in God's presence among and around the saints in community, where we can see Jesus with us, regardless of who we are, what mistakes we've made or shortcomings we have, or even how old we are, and he holds us, loves and blesses us, and tells us that he has us, so we needn't be afraid.

As we move from this season after the Epiphany and into the season of Lent, may we continue to see the leading of the Spirit, feel the love of God, and listen to the teachings of Jesus that bring us deeper into relationship and faith. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** In the Cross of Christ I Glory (#324)

## **CREED (ELW p. 104)**

With all who have listened to the grace of Jesus, let us confess the Christian faith with the Apostle's 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 INTERCESSION**

Called to be beloved children of God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with "Lord, in your shining mercy," and you all may respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, in your shining mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you love this world and everything and everyone in it, but we do not always realise or recognize your presence in our lives. May your love always be reflected in and around our communities, that we never forget the reaches of your grace. Lord, in your shining mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, your hand of grace rests upon us and you declare us as your own. Strengthen us in our faith and ministry, that our proclamation of your truth be evident in all that we do. We lift up in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those that use this building for worship, work, and play; our partners Anglican Church of Canada and Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered leaders, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular, we pray for Ascension Lutheran Church in Nelson and the pastors and leaders that serve them; and for Mount Zion Lutheran Church in New Westminster and their new pastor Courtenay Reedman-Parker. Lord, in your shining mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, your creation groans under the systems of oppression and inequality that run rampant through the nations. Strengthen us to continually search for new ways of properly caring for all that you have made, that this planet be able to serve as our home well into the future. Lord, in your shining mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, the rulers of the earth often seem corrupt and unjust, and their judgement and understanding might come into question, causing division and strife. Help us all work together with trust and respect, and inform us with your wisdom and righteousness, that we might one

day know true peace throughout the earth. We pray especially for the continued support of those that we've sponsored to come into our country: Abraham Barhane; Solyana Amanuel; and Filimon Abraha; as well as for those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Meri Gabramikael. Lord, in your shining mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you declare us to be your beloved children and you promise us your grace, love, and welcome into your arms of healing and wholeness. Be with all those among us who are sick, mourn, or feel lonely, and allow us all to see your light that inspires and strengthens us to be your faithful people in the world. Especially we pray for Janet; Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Greg; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Laura; Kandie; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Kelly; Betty; Ngan Kew (nan CUE); Matt; Patty; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...

Lord, in your shining mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you provide for us eternal refuge and we are happy to live in your kingdom with you and all the saints. May we look to their example of life and faith and be motivated and strengthened in our own journey, that our service and ministry be for your glory for all time.

Lord, in your shining mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the shining light of your inspiring love, shown to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **PEACE (p. 106)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

#### **MEAL**

##### **DIALOGUE**

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, to at all times and places give thanks and praise to you, O God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who appears to us in our ordinary spaces, shining the light of your love in our lives, and graciously joining us together with the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven, and the church on earth in praising your name with this unending hymn:

#### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 207)**

##### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Indeed, Lord you are holy, powerful, and mighty, and in you we find our strength to be your people in the world. For you grant to us your grace and love, showing us how life can be lived in community and relationship and how joy can be found in our connections and work. And when the time was right, you send to us Jesus, your messenger of peace, to reveal to all the ways of your everlasting justice and righteousness through forgiveness and salvation.



For on the night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus sat with his friends for a meal, where he took the bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it with them saying, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you, do this for the remembrance of me."

Then after they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink from 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."

It is in this bread and cup that we see your righteousness and faithfulness, shining into our lives through your love and promises, even as we declare this mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

So it is to you, O God, that all honour and glory belong, for all that you have done, all that you are doing, and all that you will do for the sake of this world that is shrouded in darkness but anointed by your Spirit. May you bless this food that we are prepared to share, bless this congregation for the work we are prepared to do, and bless each individual here and beyond with the truth of your grace and mercy, given to us by your eternal and everlasting love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, as one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER (p. 112)**

Gathered into the light of Christ's love and grace, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 COMMUNION**

Taste and see God's love shining into all our hearts.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** Lamb of God (p. 208)

By Your Hand You Feed Your People (#469)

I Am the Bread of Life (#485)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy and gracious God, you have again fed and nourished us as your people in the world, empowering us to reflect your light shining in the darkness. Be with us in our journey, that as we move toward the cross we might have our eyes fixed firmly on you and your grace, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**SENDING****BLESSING**

May the love of God radiate blessing upon you,  
the grace of God shine favour onto you,  
and the mercy of God be a lamp on your way, leading you toward peace and salvation, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** Jesus, the Light of the World (ACS #914)

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, bear the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**