

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

GATHERING

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \ddagger 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 \dagger Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" (Sing Twice)

Refrain:

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship;
Come, just as you are before your God.
Come.

Verse:

One day every tongue will confess You are God;
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those,
Who gladly choose you now. ***Refrain.***



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APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD – READINGS

FIRST READING: 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.

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

PSALM: Psalm 2 (Read responsively)

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

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.”**

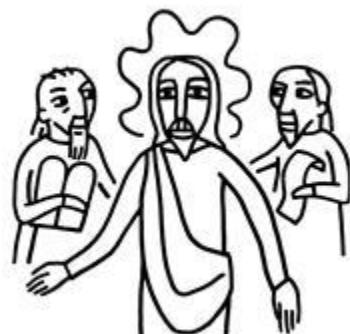
⁷ Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
 who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

**8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
 and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

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 refuge in God!

SECOND READING: 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.

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.**

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Thy Word"

Refrain:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Verse:

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way;
still, You're there right beside me.

Nothing I will fear—as long as you are near;
please be near me to the end.



Refrain:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

And a light unto my path.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 17th Chapter, beginning at the 1st verse. **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.

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.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steven Kuhl

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Praise the Name of Jesus”

Verse 1

Praise the name of Jesus; Praise the Son of God.
Glory, glory be to Christ, our King,
Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Jesus Christ is the Son of God.



Verse 2

Praise the name of Jesus; Praise the Lamb who died.
Glory, glory be to Christ, our King,
Jesus Christ, Lamb who died
Jesus Christ is the Lamb who died.

Verse 3

Praise the name of Jesus; Praise our Risen Lord.
Glory, glory be to Christ, our King,
Jesus Christ, Risen Lord
Jesus Christ is our Risen Lord.

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THE APOSTLES' 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

Pastor: 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 *especially those we name aloud or in our hearts.* (*A brief silence.*) 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.**

Pastor: 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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words. The assembly is seated.

OFFERING – Collection of our offerings is taken.

Music during the collection of the offering is "Lord, I Lift Your Name" on High by Rick Founds.

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

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.



THE MEAL

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.

PROPER PREFACE FOR TRANSFIGURATION

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;
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,
that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.
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:

The Holy Hymn: “Holy Ground” (Sing Twice)

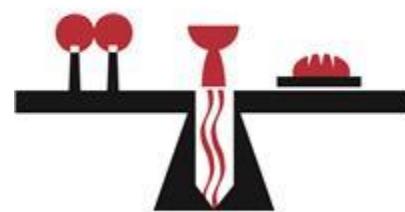
We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in His presence—on holy ground.

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THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Please be seated and come forward for Holy Communion.

Hymns during Communion: (Please Sing Along!)

In Moments Like These

In moments like these, I sing out a song;
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these, I lift up my hands;
I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing, "I love You, Lord."
Singing, "I love You, Lord."
Singing, "I love You, Lord. I love You."

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(Go right into the next song....)

O, How I Love Jesus

Verse:

There is a name I love to hear. I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Chorus: O, How I Love Jesus! O, How I Love Jesus!
O, How I love Jesus, because he first loved me.

Verse:

It tells me of the Savior's love, who died to set me free.
It tells me of his precious blood: the sinner's perfect plea. **Chorus**

Verse: It tells me what my Father hath in store for every day.
And tho' I tread a dark-some path; yields sunshine all the way. **Chorus**

Final Verse:

It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe.
Who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.

Final Chorus: O, How I Love Jesus! O, How I Love Jesus!
O, How I love Jesus, because he first loved me.
Because he first loved me!

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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

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.

(Please be seated as the children come forward.)



CHILDREN'S TIME

THE BURYING OF THE ALLELUIA

There is a great voice of many people in heaven saying, Alleluia:
Salvation and glory and honor and power be to the Lord our God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord does reign!
The Lord is clothed with majesty. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

But there is a time to laugh and a time to weep.
A time to dance and a time to mourn.
As we enter the season of Lent,
bring forth acts that are suitable signs of repentance.
Remember that the sacrifices of God are a humble spirit.
It is a humble and contrite heart that God does not despise.
**Therefore, until the day we celebrate Christ's resurrection
with joy and gladness, we commit our joyful ALLELUIA
to God who gave it.**

Let us pray.
O God, look with favor on your people gathered here.
We know that we have sinned and deserve your punishment,
yet we look to you for mercy. Spare us, as you have spared
your people in the past. During Lent, help us to reorder
our lives so that others can see your presence.
We ask this in Christ's name.
Amen.

Happy are those who die in the faith of Christ!
Henceforth, says the Spirit, they may rest from their labors.
So says the church of its ALLELUIA.

(The Alleluia is buried and carried out.)

Today our Alleluia dies for a season until it rises with Christ
in his glorious resurrection. When Christ died, he died to sin,
once and for all. Rising from the dead, he lives to God,
life without end. In the same way you must regard yourselves
as dead to sin and alive to God, in union with Christ Jesus.
Amen!



Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

SENDING 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.

Today's Lay Leaders

Lector: George Becket

Ushers: Bill & Kathy Wakefield

Communion Assistant: Judy Goodwin

Altar Guild: Deanna Posig

Music & Worship Coordinator: Barb Regent

SENDING HYMN: “Mighty is Our God” (Sing Three Times)

Refrain: Mighty is our God, mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, ruler of ev’rything.
Glory to our God, glory to our King;
Glory to our Lord, ruler of ev’rything.

Verse: His name is higher—higher than any other name;
His pow’r is greater; for he has created ev’rything. **Refrain**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude “Days of Elijah” by Robin Mark

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Adoration Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

3840 West Edgerton Avenue
Greenfield, WI 53221
Phone: 414.281.0414
www.adorationlc.com

adorationlutheran@gmail.com
Pastor Steve Kuhl, Interim Pastor
Crystal A. Roider, Office Manager

