

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Transfiguration Sunday - February 14, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #712 - *“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”***

**Jesus, take us to the mountain  
Where, with Peter, James, and John,  
We are dazzled by your glory,  
Light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night  
By the vision of that sight.**

**What do you want us to see there  
That your close companions saw?  
Your divinity revealed there  
Fills us with the selfsame awe.  
Clothed in flesh like ours you go,  
Matched to meet our deadliest foe.**

**What do you want us to hear there  
That your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the voice from heaven  
Says of the incarnate Word:  
“Listen, listen ev’ryone;  
This is my beloved Son!”**

**Take us to that other mountain  
Where we see you glorified,  
Where you shouted, “It is finished!”  
Where for all the world you died.  
Hear the stunned centurion:  
“Truly this was God’s own Son!”**

**We who have beheld your glory,  
Risen and ascended Lord,  
Cannot help but tell the story,  
All that we have seen and heard,  
Say with Peter, James, and John:  
“You are God’s beloved Son!”**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **First Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1-12a**

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah was traveling with Elisha from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord is taking your master away from you?” Then he said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.” Then Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here because the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho. Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord is taking your master away from you?” He said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here because the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Then fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood and watched them from a distance, while the two of them were standing at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, folded it together, and struck the

water. The water divided to the right and to the left. Then the two of them crossed on dry land. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask me for whatever I can do for you before I am taken from you." Then Elisha said, "Let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." He said, "You have asked for a difficult thing. If you see me being taken from you, it will surely be yours. But if not, then it will not." While they were walking and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire came and separated them. So Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha was watching and crying out, "My father! My father! Israel's chariot and its charioteers!" Then he did not see him anymore. (EHV)

### **Psalm 148**

**Refrain: Forever let us sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**Praise the LORD from the 'heavens,  
Praise him in the 'heights above.**

**Praise him, all his 'angels,  
Praise him, all his 'heavenly hosts.**

**Praise him, 'sun and moon,  
Praise him, all you 'shining stars.**

**Refrain: Forever let us sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**Praise the LORD 'from the earth,  
Lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his 'bidding,**

**You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all 'cedars,  
Wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and 'flying birds,**

**Kings of the earth and all rul'ers on earth,  
Young men and maidens, old men and 'children.**

**Let them praise the name 'of the LORD,  
For his splendor is above the earth and the 'heavens.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son  
And to the Holy 'Spirit,  
As it was in the be'ginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

**Refrain: Forever let us sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2**

Therefore, since we have this kind of hope, we act with great boldness. We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the Israelites could not continue to look at the end of the radiance, as it was fading away. In spite of this, their minds were hardened. Yes, up to the present day, the same veil remains when the Old Testament is read. It has not been removed because it is taken away only in Christ. Instead, to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts. But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. But all of us who reflect the Lord's glory with an unveiled face are being transformed into his own image, from one degree of glory to another. This too is from the Lord, who is the Spirit. Therefore, since we have this ministry as a result of the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged. On the contrary, we have renounced shameful, underhanded methods. We do not operate in a deceitful way, and we do not distort the word of God. Instead, by proclaiming the truth clearly, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. A voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him." Alleluia.

**Gospel: Mark 9:2-9**

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain where they were alone by themselves. There he was transfigured in front of them. His clothes became radiant, dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them. And Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say because they were terrified. A cloud appeared and overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him." Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (EHV)

**The Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn #97 - *“Down from the Mount of Glory”***

**Down from the mount of glory  
Came Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Recall the wondrous story,  
Rich gem in sacred Word.  
Again your faith will view him  
In double glory here;  
The greater homage due him  
Will in your life appear.**

**Transfigured, Christ, the lowly,  
Stood radiant in the light,  
Light found in Godhead solely,  
For human eyes too bright.  
Then came a voice from heaven,  
Confirmed what here we see;  
The words “my Son” were given  
To seal his deity.**

**Yet mark this glory hidden!  
See him the mount descend  
And, by the Father bidden,  
His willing footsteps bend  
To seek humiliation  
In deepest depths of woe,  
To suffer degradation  
No mind can probe or know.**

Strange how his journey ended!  
In love that is his fame  
Our Lord again ascended  
A mount - the hill of shame.  
Upon the cross he proffered  
Himself to agony;  
His holy soul he offered  
To set the guilty free.

Then hail the double glory  
Of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
And let the wondrous story  
Full peace and joy afford!  
The holy mount acclaims him  
The majesty divine;  
Mount Calvary proclaims him  
Redeemer - yours and mine.

The Sermon:      2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2  
                          “Stand In The Glory Of The LORD”

**Stand In The Glory Of The LORD.** That’s what Peter, James, and John did on the day when Jesus was **transfigured** before them. His **glory** was seen in His **face**, shining as bright as **lightning** - and even in His **clothes** which were dazzling **white**. As Peter stood there in the glory of Jesus, he said, “*Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.*” Three **tents** - three **temporary** shelters. The disciples were not going to be permanently **isolating** themselves there on the mountain. But, **Standing In The Glory Of The LORD** did **change** these men. They became **more certain** of their faith in Jesus as the Son of **God**, and they also became **stronger** in living their **lives** for Him.

Today, you and I also **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD**. Jesus says, “*Where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them.*” Jesus is **among** us today, even though He remains **unseen**. The same Jesus who stood in the presence of His inner circle of **disciples**, **speaks** to **us** in His **Word**, and also regularly **comes** to us with **forgiveness** in the **Lord’s Supper**. With the eyes of **faith** we also **see** Jesus, and gaze in **wonder** at His **glory**. Jesus showed His **glory** most **vividly** when He graciously **died** on the cross to pay for our sins, and He will show His glory **again** when He takes us to be with Him in

His heavenly home - a **permanent** home. Because we **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD**, our lives are changed for the **better**, just as the lives of His **disciples** were changed for the better.

We can **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD** because the **veil** has been lifted from our hearts. A **veil** is a **cloth** which covers a person's **face**. In many ways our current government-imposed **masks** are very **similar** to a veil. They **hide** our **joys** and our **sorrows**. They make our outward **emotions** disappear. They **shield** others from whatever is on the other side. After God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, Moses came **down** from the mountain in order to **speak** to the people of Israel, and his face was **radiant** from standing in the presence of the almighty **God**. Moses didn't want the people of Israel to see that radiance **fade away**, because God still had much **more** to share with them. As **awesome** as the commandments of God **are**, they were never meant to be the **greatest** expression of His glory. **That** would come when God showed His **grace** to **all people** through the gift of His Son, **Jesus**.

Paul told the Corinthians, "*In spite of this, their minds were **hardened**. Yes, up to the present day, the same **veil** remains when the **Old Testament** is read. It has not been **removed** because it is taken away only in **Christ**. Instead, to this day, whenever **Moses** is read, a **veil** lies over their hearts. But whenever someone turns to the **Lord**, the veil is **taken away**."* Paul stated the sad truth that the majority of the **Jews** had become fixated on **Moses** and the **Law**. They didn't open their **eyes** to the precious **Gospel** of God - the **Good News** that we have a **Savior** in the person of **Jesus**. They were **blind** to the **full** story of the Scriptures. They **focused** on God's **commandments**, and tried to find salvation by **keeping** them. What they didn't **understand** is that no one can **measure up** to the holy standard of God's Law and **earn** His favor. Rather, the Law **condemns** us to eternal death. It **can't** save us.

Even today, many people still see the Bible merely as a book on **morality** - a book full of **rules to keep** in order to be **saved**. These people are all wearing a **veil** - they are **blind** to their **inability** to keep God's Law, and their need for God's **mercy** to **save** them. But Jesus **removes** the veil. Jesus came into this world to **perfectly** obey the Law for us, and to set us **free** from the guilt of our sins. His transfiguration **opens our eyes** to this wonderful truth. As we hear the Heavenly Father say, "*This is my **Son**, whom I love,*" the truth is **clear**. Jesus was **sent** to us by the Father. He lived a **perfect** life to **earn** our salvation. And then through His **death** on the cross, He made the ultimate **sacrifice** to pay for the sins of the world. What **grace** - what **glory**. May we always **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD**,

and gaze on all the wonderful things He has **done** for us. Focusing on **Jesus** will **remove** the veil of self-righteousness from our hearts, and will lead us to **trust** in Him **alone** as our Savior from sin.

And as we **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD**, we will also experience true **freedom**. Our text continues, *“Now the Lord is the **Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**.”* This **freedom** refers to freedom from the burden of **sin** and the sting of **death**. Because Jesus **paid** for all of our sins, and **rose victoriously** from the dead, *“There is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* We have been set **free** from the burden of **guilt** and **fear**. Even **death itself** has lost its sting. Our graves have been changed from a hole in the **earth** into a stairway to **heaven**, because Jesus has **promised** us, *“I will come again and take you to be **with me**, so that you may also be **where I am**.”* That glory is still **waiting** for us in the **future**.

But even **now**, as we **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD**, we are able to **reflect** His glory in the **world**. Again we read, *“All of us who **reflect** the Lord’s glory with an **unveiled face** are being **transformed** into his own image, from one degree of glory to another. This too is from the **Lord**, who is the **Spirit**.”* How good it is to know that as we **reflect** God’s glory in life, the Holy Spirit **transforms us**. He **changes us**, and helps us to become more and more **like Jesus**. So often as we look at our lives, we see ourselves **changing**, but we’re focused on how we are **aging** and **losing** abilities that we used to have. **Those** changes come about as a result of **sin**. It would be far **better** for us to focus on what we are **gaining**, because **those** are changes which are brought about by the **Holy Spirit** working in us through God’s **Word** and **Sacrament**. As we become more and more **like Jesus**, we become more **trusting**, more **forgiving**, and more **caring**. And Jesus **also** promises us that when He **returns**, He will transform the **bodies** we have now into **glorified** bodies. I don’t know **exactly** what that will mean, but at the very **least**, our bodies won’t **deteriorate** and **wear out** the way they do now. That will more than **make up** for the things which we **temporarily** aren’t able to **do**.

And finally, as we **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD**, we’ll be able to boldly **share** Jesus. Our text concludes, *“Therefore, since we have this **ministry** as a result of the **mercy** shown us, we are not **discouraged**. On the contrary, we have **renounced** shameful, underhanded methods. We do not operate in a **deceitful** way, and we do not **distort** the word of God. Instead, by **proclaiming the truth clearly**, we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.”*

The Apostle Paul had nothing to **hide** as a person who **shared** God’s Word, and neither do **we**. We just need to tell others what **we know** about our Savior -



and we know **a lot**. We don't need to **water down** God's Word in order to make it easier for others to understand. We don't need to use **gimmicks** to get their attention. We can just **openly** and **plainly** talk about our **own** faith in Jesus. By being **open** and **honest** about **our faith** we don't have to worry about offending people's consciences, because even if they **disagree** with us, we're just telling them about the Savior **we** believe in, and we're letting them know that the **same** Savior is there for **them** too. That **boldness** comes as we **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD**.

When the inner circle of disciples was with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration Peter said, "*Rabbi, it is **good** for us to **be here**.*" It was good for **them**, and it is equally as good for **us**, to be **here**, and to **Stand In The Glory Of The LORD**. May we always **rejoice** to hear that **our lives** are being **transformed** by the Holy Spirit, so we can continue to become more like our **Savior** here on the earth, and **eventually** to share in His **heavenly** glory too. Amen.

#### **Prayers:**

Heavenly Father, on the Mount of Transfiguration You revealed **Jesus** in His **unveiled** divine majesty, and by wonderful testimony out of the cloud declared Him to be Your **Son** whom You **love**. Help us always to believe and confess that Jesus is true **God**, to the glory of Your name. In commanding us to **listen** to Your Son, You have placed Your divine blessing on **everything** that He has **spoken**. Give us the grace to **hear** His wonderful words of salvation with steadfast **faith**, so that we will not **dread** His final coming, or **fear** His judgment. Gracious Father, to know **Christ** by faith, is to know Your **love**, to possess Your **forgiveness**, and to share with all saints the **hope** of everlasting life. We **thank** You for giving us this knowledge and faith.

Dear Jesus, although You were **glorified** on the mountain, nevertheless, You **humbled** Yourself even to the point of dying on the cross for our transgressions. Make **us** willing to suffer for **You**, to risk everything we have - even our **lives** - in order that we might **better** confess Your name, and teach Your Gospel to others.

Lord Jesus, those on the mountain were happy to see Your **glory** for even a passing **moment**. How blessed **all** of us will be to spend **eternity** with You in heaven. Therefore, graciously **give** us eternal life, **forgive** our sins, **erase** our doubts, **destroy** all confidence in our own merit, and **increase** our trust in You through Your Word of Truth. **Comfort** us with the bright hope of Your return. Take care of our various **needs**, and **preserve** us from everything which may bring us harm. Amen.

**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.**

**Hymn #486 - *"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"***

**Lord of glory, you have bought us  
With your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice,  
And with that have freely given  
Blessings countless as the sand  
To th' unthankful and the evil  
With your own unsparing hand.**

**Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you  
Gladly, freely, of your own.  
With the sunshine of your goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by you, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.**

**Wondrous honor you have given  
To our humblest charity  
In your own mysterious sentence,  
"You have done it unto me."  
Can it be, O gracious Master,  
That you need what we can do,**

**Saying by your poor and needy,  
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?**

**Yes, the sorrow and the suff’rings  
Which on ev’ry hand we view  
Channels are for gifts and off’rings  
Due by solemn right to you.  
Right of which we may not rob you,  
Debt we may not choose but pay  
Lest that face of love and pity  
Turn from us another day.**

**Lord of glory, you have bought us  
With your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust you boldly,  
Hope, to stay our souls on you;  
But, oh, best of all your graces,  
With your love our love renew.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Blessing:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Hymn #95 - “How Good, Lord, to Be Here”**

**How good, Lord, to be here!  
Your glory fills the night;  
Your face and garments, like the sun,  
Shine with unborrowed light.**

**How good, Lord, to be here  
Your beauty to behold,  
Where Moses and Elijah stand,  
Your messengers of old.**

**Fulfiller of the past,  
Promise of things to be,  
We hail your body glorified  
And our redemption see.**

**Before we taste of death,  
We see your kingdom come;  
We long to hold the vision bright  
And make this hill our home.**

**How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
But since you bid us leave the mount,  
Come with us to the plain.**