

Home Service for February 15, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

*Glory fills the skies, as we see Christ transformed before our very eyes.*

Call to Worship:

On this Transfiguration Sunday, we gather on the mountaintop with Jesus, wondering what we will encounter. We come to encounter God's glory revealed.

We witness the revelation of Christ's divinity made plain before us. We come to witness God's glory revealed.

We remember that God's glory is not about spectacle but truth, not about show but about Love made real among us. We come to remember God's glory revealed.

We follow Jesus down from the mountaintop into the valleys, as God's glory goes before us and behind us. We come to be sent out to share God's glory revealed.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Prayer:

Radiant God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship of you encourage us on the journey and make us aspire to reflect your kingdom in the world. Transform us and keep us near to you. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Mighty God, we yearn to be called on a journey to climb your mountain of love and light. We long for the courage of Moses as we wait for your appearance, even when your powerful presence is like a devouring fire. Test our hearts, O God, that we might face our fears and prove ourselves worthy of your holy calling. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

*With tenderness and grace, Jesus shows us the power and the glory of God.*

*Walk in the assurance of God's mercy and the promise of Christ's strength for the journey.*

Read Psalm 99

The Lord reigns,

let the nations tremble;

he sits enthroned between the cherubim,

let the earth shake.

<sup>2</sup>Great is the Lord in Zion;

he is exalted over all the nations.

<sup>3</sup>Let them praise your great and awesome name—

he is holy.

<sup>4</sup>The King is mighty, he loves justice—

you have established equity;

in Jacob you have done

what is just and right.

<sup>5</sup>Exalt the Lord our God

and worship at his footstool;

he is holy.

<sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel was among those who called on his name;

they called on the Lord

and he answered them.

<sup>7</sup>He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;

they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

<sup>8</sup>Lord our God,

you answered them;

you were to Israel a forgiving God,

though you punished their misdeeds.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>9</sup>Exalt the Lord our God

and worship at his holy mountain,

for the Lord our God is holy.

Prayers of the People:

*Lord God, we give you thanks for all your gifts to us — for daily food, for health, for each breath we take, for freedom to choose, and for the gifts of your word, your power and your love. Our hearts are truly overwhelmed, O God, when we consider how you have entrusted so much to us. May we be worthy of that trust. May we be a people who are unafraid to live as fully and as richly as you want us to live.*

*Help us, O God, as followers of Jesus, to multiply all that you have given us, to risk spreading your word and perhaps see it misunderstood, to gamble by loving those whom others think worthy only of hate, to take chances by doing good to those who have not done good to us. Help us be faith-filled and desire to increase your glory and your goodness in this world. Make us people who share in both word and deed that which you have given to us.*

*We pray for the church gathered today, both here and around the world, that it may encourage all of its members to discover, develop and use all their gifts, those of nature and those of grace.*

*We pray for those who are poor in body or in spirit, for those oppressed and heavy laden, for those sick or in despair, especially those we have named. Minister by your Spirit and by us, to all those for whom we have prayed, and help us walk faithfully in the path of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we pray the prayer Jesus taught us.*

## 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

Read the Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction."

<sup>13</sup> Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them."

<sup>15</sup> When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, <sup>16</sup> and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. <sup>17</sup> To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. <sup>18</sup> Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

## Read the Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

<sup>19</sup> We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## Read the Gospel Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup> There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup> Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

<sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

<sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

## Message

This Sunday marks a time of transition for us in the movement of the church year. This is the last Sunday of the Epiphany season. Epiphany is known as the season of light. It begins with the story of the bright star leading the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. The emphasis of the Epiphany season is on the revealing of Jesus, the

manifestation of Jesus, the showing who this child was that was born in the manger on Christmas.

During this season, we saw Jesus as the healer, the preacher, the fulfiller of the law, the gatherer, as he called his disciples to follow him. We saw him as one who called not the righteous, but the sinner and in that calling people's lives were changed.'

Today, Transfiguration Sunday, marks the final revelation of the babe born in the manger, we see Jesus revealed as never before. For on the Mount of Transfiguration, we truly see what Jesus had been proclaiming about himself, we see for the first time his divine nature. We see Jesus revealed as the son of God. Matthew describes this transfiguration effect when Peter, James and John saw Jesus in this manner: "His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as the light." This was more than an exterior sign; it was his divinity shining through his humanity that these select friends of Jesus saw. This was for Jesus' disciples, the assurance that Jesus was truly the Son of God, that all he had proclaimed about himself was indeed true. The transfiguration was a short rest stop for Jesus. The Heavenly Father knew the tight race His Son was running, and provided a rest stop right before he began his final journey to Jerusalem where he would encounter the cross.

And as we end this season of Epiphany, we begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service this week. We begin our Lenten pilgrimage with the assurance that we are indeed following the Son of God, not impostor, not pretender, but the Son of God who was revealed through this mountain top experience.

When we think about it, mountains have played an important part of God's experience with humankind. Moses received the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai, Elijah heard the still small voice of God while hiding in a cave on a mountain, Abraham was to sacrifice Issac on a mountain, the city of Jerusalem was built on a mountain top and here Jesus is transfigured on a mountain top.

Mountains are one of God's most beautiful creations. How many of you remember John Denver's hit song entitled "Rocky Mountain High." In that song John Denver describes the majesty, the thrill of being high up in those mountains seeing for miles around. He described the feeling of joy, of peace, of reverence as he was alone on those mountain tops being with nature in that way he could almost feel the very presence of the Creator Himself.

Some people have said that the song is too idealistic, we cannot live with our "Rocky Mountain Highs." They think that we need to come down off of the

mountain down into the valleys, down where we can be of service to people who are feeling the brokenness of this world. But the truth is that those high feelings can give us the strength, the encouragement, the peace of heart and soul as we struggle with the brokenness of life in the valleys.

The experience that Jesus; and the disciples experienced on the mount of transfiguration gave them, and especially Jesus the encouragement he needed to continue his journey to the cross. There they encounter not only the physical majesty of God through the beauty of the mountains, but they encountered first hand God's voice, and God's relationship to human history through the persons of Moses and Elijah. Meeting those two people from the Old Testament was important for it showed that Jesus is linked with the past history of the nation of Israel. This was God's effort to tie Jesus with the past, to root him firmly in Israel's history. Two of Israel's biggest saints were there on the mountain, two close companions of God. Moses, leader of Israel and Elijah, the prophet of Israel. We know that Jesus knew who he was talking to. This history lesson on the mountain top was a valuable experience for Jesus and the disciples. It showed through Jesus that God was fulfilling his plans that were begun with the call of Abraham, and it told the disciples that Jesus was God's son, the longed for redeemer of Israel.

In fact, this rocky mountain high was such a good experience that Peter wanted to build a monument. He wanted to stay on the mountain to savor the whole experience for he said, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He wanted to keep the experience keep going forever. But he was interrupted by the voice of the Heavenly Father telling them that Jesus was indeed His son and that they should listen to him. We can just imagine how the disciples were so filled with fear, awe and reverence, that they fell on their faces before the Lord. This was a holy and reverent experience for them. Then Jesus comes, tells them to get up, the experience was over, and Jesus was the only one left.

As the Gospel tells us: And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus. Moses and Elijah were gone. Gone too was the voice of God. Gone too was the white of Jesus clothing and appearance. Gone too was the special experience. Everything was back to normal, if we can call being in Jesus presence, having encountered God, and after having encountered the very history of Israel, normal. Jesus was the only one left. Take a moment to think about it, it was the fulfillment of the past and would become the start of the divine future on Easter morning.

As we begin our Lenten pilgrimage it is good to remember it is not a God of the law of Moses that we walk with to the cross of Calvary, but the God of mercy who

accepts us just as we are with all of our shortcomings, and our sinfulness. We walk with the God who loved us so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins and that we may become the children of God. Amen.

Benediction:

*Come down from the mountain with mountain-like faith.  
Walk on God's paths as bright, shining lights.  
Live in God's ways with faith, hope, and love.  
Go into the world transformed and renewed!*