

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Holstein, IA February 15, 2026 9:00 A.M.
Transfiguration of Our Lord

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. The 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. We will 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.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

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 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.

Opening Hymn

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You;
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You.
To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory;
Pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing, "holy, holy, holy."
(Repeat)

Holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You.
(Repeat)

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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.

WORD

Exodus 24:12-18

¹²The 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." ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴To 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."

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The 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. ¹⁷Now 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. ¹⁸Moses 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 99

(Read Responsively)

¹ The Lord is king; let the people tremble.

The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

² The Lord, great in Zion,

is high above all peoples.

³ Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;

God is the Holy One.

⁴ O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God's footstool;

God is the Holy One.

⁶ Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O Lord,

they called upon you, and you answered them,

⁷ you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and worship upon God's holy hill;

for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Alleluia

Celtic Alleluia



Matthew 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to 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.

Message Pastor Ben McIntire

Hymn of the Day

Dazzling Presence on the Mountain

Dazzling presence on the mountain: human eye had never seen
such a wonder, such resplendence, heav'n and earth in cloud convene.
"This is my Son, the beloved," thund'rous voice from cloud exclaimed.
Word made flesh to heal creation, to disciples God proclaimed.

From this mount of mystic splendor to the cross Christ presses on;
here no Moses nor Elijah, only thieves Christ's wings adorn.
"Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy," was one's penitential sigh.
With transfiguring assurance, Christ rejoins his fervent cry.

From the heights of new creation, Christ beholds his world, redeemed;
as with Peter and companions, brings us now to sights unseen.
Justice, mercy, and compassion: these the booths he bids us build,
that the earth he loves may flourish as each life with grace is filled.

Let our praise ring from each mountain, into deepest valleys pour,
where, with lives of grateful service, we adore Christ evermore.
To the Son, God's own beloved, and the Spirit endlessly,
may the church's praise be lifted to the blessed Trinity.

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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 the People

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

#752

Sharing the Peace

**The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.**

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

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 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.

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion

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

Distribution

****Distribution of the Sacrament****

*All who trust in Christ's word are welcome to the table of this holy supper,
where our Lord is truly present, offering his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.
Please tell the server if you desire grape juice as an alternative to wine,
or if you require a gluten-free wafer.*

Come, Let Us Eat

#491

Drawn to the Light

#593

Prayer After Communion

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.

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.

Closing Song

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

#318

(tune: Angels, from the Realms of Glory)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Vicar:	Emily Anderson
Pulpit Supply:	Pastor Ben McIntire
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Bob Butcher
Deacons:	Mitch Trost and John Walsh
Greeters:	Travis & Jessica Pratt
Acolytes:	Graham Boling and Beau Butcher
Sound & Video:	Kyle and Kreighton Krager
Coffee Hosts:	Jackie & Steve Meyer Bonnie & Dave Stevenson

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, February 15 ~ Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee and fellowship
12:00 PM	Private fellowship hall / kitchen rental

TUESDAY, February 17

9:00 AM	Sewing Day
7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting

WEDNESDAY, February 18

	No LOGOS
7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

THURSDAY, February 19

2:00 PM	"12 Women of the Bible" - Women's Bible Study
7:00 PM	Congregation Council meeting

SUNDAY, February 22 ~ First Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee and fellowship