

Transfiguration Sunday

February 15, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude sung by Kelly Hartz – “Psalm 97,” arr. LaRosa

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “We Are Called”

(piano)

1. **We are called. We are claimed. We are loved by the holy name.
We are healed. We are whole. The Savior ransomed our souls**

*Refrain: And we're singing Glory, Glory, Glory Hallelujah! Glory, Gloria.
Oh, Glory, Glory, Glory Hallelujah. Glory, Gloria!*

2. **We are here. To proclaim. God is here; calls us each by name.
We are here. To give praise. The love of God will not change. Refrain**

**Greeting*

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

C: And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of miracles, sometimes we are slow to believe in your power, even when your miracles occur all around us each and every day. Sometimes we question why we suffer and where you are in our struggle. Open our eyes to see and our hearts to believe that we are always held by you.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “Be Thou My Vision” ELW 793, vv. 1 & 4

(organ)

1. **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

4. **Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

WORD

Reading: Psalm 27:1-4

Reader: Angela Spray

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold^[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me,
uttering slanders against me,
my adversaries and foes,
they shall stumble and fall.

³Though a host encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As he was walking along, he observed a man who had been blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that caused him to be born blind?”

³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This happened so that God’s work might be revealed in him. ⁴I must do the work of the one who sent me while it is day.

Night is approaching, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I'm in the world, I'm the light of the world." ⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he spread the mud on the man's eyes ⁷and told him, "Go and wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated "Sent One"). So he went off, washed, and came back seeing.

⁸Then the neighbors and those who had previously seen him as a beggar said, "This is the man who used to sit and beg, isn't it?"

⁹Some were saying, "It's him," while others were saying, "No, but it's someone like him." But he himself kept saying, "It's me!"

¹⁰So they asked him, "How, then, did you gain your eyesight?"

¹¹He said, "The man named Jesus made some mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So off I went and washed, and I received my sight."

¹²They asked him, "Where is that man?"

He said, "I don't know!"

¹³So they brought to the Pharisees the man who had once been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and healed his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had gained his sight. He told them, "He put mud on my eyes, then I washed, and now I can see."

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees began to remark, "This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others were saying, "How can a sinful man perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.

¹⁷So they asked the formerly blind man again, "What do you say about him, since it was your eyes he healed?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jewish leaders did not believe that the man had been blind and had gained sight until they summoned his parents ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? How does he now see?"

²⁰His parents replied, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But we don't know how it is that he now sees, and we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is of age and can speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, since the Jewish leaders had already agreed that anyone who

acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be thrown out of the synagogue. ²³That's why his parents said, "He is of age. Ask him."

²⁴The Jewish leaders summoned the man who had been blind a second time and told him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

²⁵But he responded, "I don't know whether he is a sinner or not. The one thing I do know is that I used to be blind and now I can see!"

²⁶Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?"

²⁷He answered them, "I've already told you, but you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don't want to become his disciples, too, do you?"

²⁸At this, they turned on him in fury and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but we do not know where this fellow comes from."

³⁰The man answered them, "This is an amazing thing! You don't know where he comes from, yet he healed my eyes. ³¹We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but he does listen to anyone who worships him and does his will. ³²Ever since creation it has never been heard that anyone healed the eyes of a man who was born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he couldn't do anything like that."

³⁴They asked him, "You were born a sinner and you are trying to instruct us?" And they threw him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. So when he found him, he asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

³⁷Jesus told him, "You have seen him. He is the person who is talking with you."

³⁸He said, "Lord, I do believe," and worshipped him.

³⁹Then Jesus said, "I have come into this world to judge it, so that those who are blind may see and so that those who see may become blind."

⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees who were near him overheard this and asked him, "We aren't blind, too, are we?"

⁴¹Jesus told them, "If you were blind, you would not have any sin. But now that you insist, 'We see,' your sin still exists."

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Song – “Surely It Is God Who Saves Me”

(piano)

**Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation’s healing spring;
In the day of your deliv’rance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.**

**Make God’s deeds known to the peoples; tell out his exalted name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works God’s might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,
In your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Sermon: “Man Born Blind”

Song of the Day – “Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715

(organ)

1. **Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. **Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice. Refrain**
3. **Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Refrain**
4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. Refrain**
5. **Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. Refrain**

**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*

Stewardship Time

“Fairest Lord Jesus,” arr. Britt
Jean Welch, piano

–We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God through the use of our time, talents, and finances–

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: 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.

**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.

Communion Songs

“Our God is Here” *(piano)*

- 1. Here in this time, here in this place, here we are standing face to face.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives our God is here.
Here for the broken, here for the strong, here in this temple we belong.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here. And we cry:**

*Refrain: “Holy! Holy! Holy are you!” We cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy and true!”
Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.*

- 2. Here in the Word, God is revealed, here where the wounded can be healed.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here.
Here we become what we receive, here in this Eucharistic feast.
We are his body, living as one; our God is here. And we cry: *Refrain***

**And we cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy are you!” We cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy and true!”
Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.**

“Help Us Accept Each Other” *tune of ELW 654 (organ)*
“The Church's One Foundation”

- 1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**
- 2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may be come.**

3. **Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**
4. **Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.
C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618 (organ)*

1. **Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**
2. **Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.**
3. **When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

“We Are Called,” by Larry Olson, © 1989 Dakota Road Music. Used by permission.

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“Surely It Is God Who Saves Me,” from **With One Voice**, © 1995 Augsburg-Fortress. Used by permission.

“Our God Is Here,” by Chris Muglia, from Spirit and Song 2, © 2005, OCP Publications. Used by permission.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin

Greeter: Carol Freesen

Reader: Angela Spray

Usher: Barb Davenport

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Mindy Carlson & Monica Proefrock

Chancel Committee: Mary Jane Esslinger

Coffee Hosts: Malinda Carlson & Terri Kimler

Singers:

Maddie Crossin

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Kevin Krohe

Kay Schnitker

Marilyn Dichsen

Patty Nelson

Cory Street

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

John Williams



What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, February 15, 9:30am: Worship **Newsletter Deadline**

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Monday, February 16, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

7:00pm: Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 22, 9:30am: Worship **Friends from Faith**

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Wednesday, February 25, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

6:00pm: Outreach Meal in the Great Room

7:00pm: Lenten Service

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

This February, Faith's Little Flock will continue the journey through the book of John alongside the rest of our congregation. Through simple storytelling, hands-on activities, and music, our youngest learners (and big-kid helpers) will explore what it means that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and discover the hope found in the story of Lazarus. As the Lenten season begins, we will focus on themes of love, trust, and new life, helping children understand that Jesus is always near, guiding and caring for them.

We look forward to walking this meaningful season together with your children through stories, creativity, and faith-filled fun.

If you would like to help with FLF, please contact Melissa Street, Pam Devlin, or Liddy Stark. Blessings, *Melissa*

Contribution Envelopes for 2026 are available in the gathering area. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please talk to Kris Roth, Barb Davenport, or Pam Devlin.

Financial Statements

for 2025 are available in the office.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library** (this new group will take the place of the Discipleship Group). We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. People should read assigned daily readings from The Bible Recap so that we can discuss what we read.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Post-Service Discussions after Worship

After the service, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators

Pastor Adam is available to lead gatherings on Feb. 15, March 15 & 22, & April 12 & 19. If others would like to help provide a meal or lead a fun activity, please contact Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, or Celeste Hill on our Discipleship Core Team or **sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area**. Our typical schedule is for Bible Boot Camp from 4:30-5:30, a meal for 15 people from 5:30-6:00, and Faith Inkubators from 6:00-7:30.

Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule

Our schedule for midweek worship services this year –

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25

Outreach Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Worship: “Be Still and Know”

Do you ever need to put on the brakes after a busy day? Do you need a time in the middle of the week to reorient your focus? Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 for our Lenten midweek worship services under the theme, "Be still and know." Psalm 46 reminds us that

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Our worship will follow Holden Evening Prayer, a beautiful sung liturgy, with scripture and time to pray, reflect, be still, and know that God is God.

Midweek Supper and Worship with “Outreach Meals”

Our Lenten tradition continues with Wednesday night meals and worship, and we will again provide Outreach Meals. The meals will not be pot-luck style but will be a provided meal with a free-will offering. **Groups are invited to sign up for a Wednesday to provide the meal.** Faith will reimburse them \$200 in outreach funds to cover their cost. The group can select a charity to receive the funds, and all of the offering will go towards that ministry. Sign up your group and charity at the counter outside the Total Ministry Center. Join us for these wonderful outreach meals at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and all are invited to chip in and help with clean up in the kitchen. Worship will start at 7:00 to make time for all to be ready after the meal.

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$9.00** regular & decaf; **\$3.00** tea). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Conference of Churches Collecting Dry Goods for Area Food Bank

to support the Food Center "Grains" event. Please bring your donations by February 22 – Hamburger Helper, Mac n Cheese, Crackers, Dry Pasta, Cereal – and place them in the box in the Mission and Ministry Center. Thank You!

Kids Act – Build Confidence and Faith through Performing Arts

First Presbyterian Church (870 W. College, Jacksonville) is hosting a theater camp for kids grades 3-6, on Wednesday, February 25, from 5:30-6:30pm. The hour will include theater, improv, games, music, and movement.

Prayer and Meditation

Prayer and meditation are ways that we invite God into our lives and into those for whom we pray. The health challenges facing Marilyn Dichsen have focused our congregation's attention on the importance of prayers for healing cancer in a gifted young woman. Marilyn's challenges have also brought to our attention all who are struggling with physical and mental health issues. Faith members are encouraged to pray for all who are in need wherever you might find yourself. The church sanctuary is open during regular church

office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-1:00) for members to stop by and spend quiet time praying for Marilyn, her family, and all those who are in need of prayer. A prayer book is available at the back of the sanctuary by the tech station, along with the names of those who have been included in worship prayers and our prayer chain. Please sign your name and record your prayers or words of encouragement, if you so desire.