

This Week at Grace
Sunday, February 18, 2007
The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Minnesota Twins Spring Training Begins Today!

INTRODUCTION

Things are not always what they seem! Bread and wine can become a place where we meet God. We, too, are changed in our encounter with grace. When Moses came back from speaking with God, no one could look at him the same. How will we reflect our Lord's glory as we begin our Lenten walk?

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, mighty and immortal,
you are beyond our knowing,
yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
Transform us into the likeness of your Son,
who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING *Exodus 34:29–35*

Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the Ten Commandments. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid. Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory while allowing direct communication with the people.

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that his skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses

had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

PSALM *Psalm 99*

¹The 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 a- | bove all peoples.**

³Let them confess God's name, which is | great and awesome;
God is the | Holy One.

⁴**O mighty King, lover of justice, you have es- | tablished equity;
you have executed justice and righteous- | ness in Jacob. R**

⁵Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down be- | fore 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,

⁷you spoke to them out of the pil- | lar 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.**

⁹Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's | holy hill;
for the LORD our God is the | Holy One. R

SECOND READING *2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2*

In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into his likeness.

Chapter 3

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with

unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Chapter 4

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

GOSPEL *Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]*

Today's reading offers a remarkable conclusion to the Epiphany season and turns us toward Lent. The transfiguration of Jesus is itself a great epiphany, or manifestation. But in the very midst of this event is talk of what will happen in Jerusalem, where Jesus must suffer and die.

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples,

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

- TODAY:** 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
9:30a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School/Education Hour
10:00a Departure for Jr. High Ski Trip
2:00p Girl Scout Meeting
- MONDAY:** 7:30p Cantori Rehearsal
- TUESDAY:** 9:00a Staff Meeting
9:30a Ladies Bible Study
11:00a Pastor's Text Study
2:30p 3D Meeting
5:00p Parish Nurses Meeting
6:30p Bells of Praise Rehearsal
6:30p Circle Bible Study Leader's Meeting
6:30p Scout Blue/Gold Banquet
7:30p Altar Guild Meeting
- WEDNESDAY:** *Ash Wednesday*
9:00a Sewing Day
5:30p Cherub/Chancel Choir Rehearsals
5:30p Soup and Sandwich Supper
7:00p Worship Service
8:00p Adult Choir
- THURSDAY:** 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study
1:00p Widower's Support Group
NO Evening Bible Study
- FRIDAY:** 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study
3:30p 4th-6th gr. Youth Room
- SATURDAY:** 1:00-5:00p Birthday/Anniversary Celebration
honoring Willard & Alice Spilde
- NEXT SUNDAY:** 8:30a and 11:00 Worship Services
9:30a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
2:15p 7th-12th gr. Good Samaritan Sunday

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Feb. 12: In memory of mother, Anna Foley given by Alice Lageson.] [Feb. 18: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Feb. 18: Sunday School] [Feb. 19: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Feb. 20: Given by Pastor Walsh.] [Feb. 21:

GLCW] [Feb. 22: In memory of Ruth Loken given by Richard & Evelyn Hovland.] [Feb. 23-24: In memory of Phil Stewart given by LaVon and family.]

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Candice Hovland, Vi Matson, and Glenn McDaniel (St. Mary's, Rochester).

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Marlene Bergeson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark & Carol Fisher (parents of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Bonnie Linder (Good Samaritan Center), Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyné Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, LaVon Stewart, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to Candice Hovland and Dean Slater upon the birth of son, *Devin Dean Slater* on Feb. 12th.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for First Lutheran Church in LeSueur, Faith Lutheran of St. Charles, Cross of Glory Lutheran of Hartland, and First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE will hold it's Annual Meeting today, 2:00p, in their Log Lodge. If you are interested in attending, you are encouraged to do so.

ASH WEDNESDAY is Feb. 21st. We will gather at 7:00p for worship that evening for a service including Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Please join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

AN INVITATION: Willard & Alice Spilde will be celebrating their 85th and 80th Birthdays and their 59th Wedding Anniversary at an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 24th, from 1:00-5:00p in Fellowship Hall. Please join them on this special day. No gifts, please.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is seeking individuals interested in serving on a selection committee dealing with the applications from families in need of homes. For more info, contact Renee at 377-4375.

LOAVES AND FISHES: Sign-up sheets for Loaves and Fishes are available in the narthex this morning. We are in need of volunteers for the month of March. (When signing up, please be sure to include your phone number.) Your help would be appreciated by many.

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S: Grace Lutheran will be serving refreshments at St. John's Lutheran Home on Sunday, Mar. 4. We are seeking donations of cake or dessert to be served that afternoon. (Please bring items to St. John's that day by 1:30p.) Thank you for your willingness to help us brighten the day with a special treat for the residents and their

families.

GLCW CIRCLES will be meeting the week of Feb. 26th. Next Sunday some Bible Study helps will be available for preparation, however, it would be a good idea if participants could read through the entire book of Job to once again become familiar with that story.

ATTENTION EVERYONE! A new Thursday evening study will begin on Mar. 1st. During the month of March – the five Thursdays of Lent – we will view a segment of the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, each week and then have approximately a half hour of discussion on the portion of the film viewed. This is a great opportunity to focus on the events surrounding the passion of our Lord. Join us at 7:00p on the Thursdays in March. We will meet in either the Fireside Room or Fellowship Hall depending on events scheduled at the church. Bring your Bibles!

BOOK CLUB will hold it's next meeting on Monday, Mar. 5th, 7:00p, and will focus on the book *Among the Lilies* by Mary Adriano. Plan to join us!

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: Scholarship applications are due Tuesday, Feb. 27th. Don't be late!

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS will be taking part in service projects during Lent. We encourage parents to have their students here and also to take part in the service projects. Many hands make for light work!

SR. HIGH SKI TRIP to Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, Mar. 9-11th: Cost of the weekend is \$110.00 which includes housing, rental, lift ticket, and some meals. Please sign up on the board outside of Denae's office if you would like to attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE has been way down since Christmas. If you know of families that have not been here much, invite them back, give words of encouragement, or offer a ride. We miss seeing all the smiling faces!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS for 5th graders is coming, beginning Mar. 11th through Apr. 1st. Classes will be held in the Chapel at 9:45a during the Sunday School hour. Both parents and students need to attend.

9th-12th GRADE STATE-WIDE YOUTH GATHERING: Mar. 30th-Apr. 1st, Crowne Plaza, St. Paul

This weekend is filled with informative classes, great music, an opportunity to take a class at Luther Seminary, and the chance to meet some great people from all over the state. I believe there is even a toga party planned! The cost of the weekend is \$80.00 and includes housing, three meals, and a t-shirt. Please sign up on the board outside of Denae's office if interested in attending. If you have any questions about this or any other youth event, please contact Denae.

SOUP SUPPERS
begin this week
on Ash Wednesday



**Please help out during Lent
by cooking soup, or baking
bread or bars.**

Sign up sheets in the Narthex.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION – Summer Camp

Registration forms for Good Earth Village are here and if you get registered before Mar. 15th you qualify for a discount. Also, something new is – *Bring a Friend Discount* – check it out! Grace Lutheran pays \$100 for each member going to camp. Forms are located outside of Jill's office, and financial scholarships are also available.

CHECK OUT the new GLCW Information Table in the narthex. This is where we will be having our sign-up sheets for upcoming events, starting with serving afternoon coffee at St. John's Home on Sunday, Mar. 4. We are in need of desserts and workers.

GLCW PRAYER PETITION JOURNAL is also displayed on the information table. This journal is honoring **BOLD WOMEN** of our congregation. We have started an "Honorary Caring and Sharing Members" list. These are women who have faithfully served for GLCW Caring and Sharing both in the past and present who are unable to continue serving because of age and/or illness, as well as those women who are no longer with us but served in their lifetime. This journal will be displayed for 20 weeks in honor of the 20th anniversary of WELCA. Members are encouraged to add comments to the pages already listed and also to add additional names and comments. Also, anyone wanting to be taken off the active Caring and Sharing list and put on the Honorary Caring and Sharing list, please call the church office and give your name and phone number and we will take care of that for you.

GRACE WOMEN: There is always information displayed on the GLCW bulletin board, downstairs outside of Fellowship Hall. If you have anything you want displayed or have any questions, please contact one of our Board members.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A QUARTER? Put it in the offering plate.
All quarters are given directly to the World Hunger Appeal. Thank you!

GIVING AT GRACE:

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support.
Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

	Sunday, Feb. 11th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 7,857.00	\$ 55,131.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 60,576.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 54.50	\$ 300.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 137.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 369; Last Year - 404

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
February 18, 2007