

February 15, 2026

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Identity Check

Jesus' character was well established. His ministry of teaching and healing had been played out in multiple settings. This ministry was already much more than the vision that began to unfold at his baptism. Then Peter made his confession and Jesus, in turn, predicted his own suffering and death.

To his friends, this was unwelcome news. Already they knew that life with Jesus was not smoothly compromising or a matter of glorious victory. But Jesus was their teacher. No doubt they all, with Peter, protested when he told of the coming troubles. Who would want such a future for a friend and mentor?

Matthew does not fill in the gap between Peter's confession and the day, six days later, when Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and started up the mountain. But it is not hard to imagine that the disciples were less hopeful, less sure, than they had been before. If they were to believe him, their future was not rosy.

We, too, may be unsure of what the future holds for us, especially if following Jesus has led us into places or situations that challenge our faith.

Jesus would be transfigured before these wondering disciples. He would dazzle them, face and clothing shining. Elijah and Moses, the greatest of prophets, would attest by their miraculous presence Jesus' destiny as God's chosen. The voice from heaven would leave no doubt: "This is my Son, the Beloved."

The voice from heaven and the view on that mountaintop are meant for us, as well. This week, we turn our faces again toward Jerusalem. The Lenten journey is about to begin. This Jesus is God's chosen. He will lead us into the weeks ahead, into the sacred story of God's love for us. In Jesus, God is with us as one of us. We can listen to him.

First St. John Lutheran Church

2471 Seaman Street

Toledo, Ohio 43605

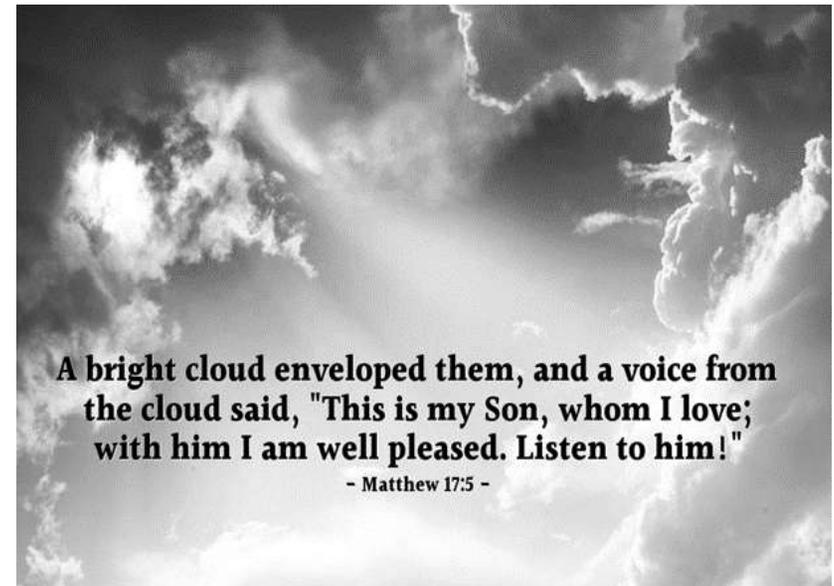
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician
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Jessica Miller, Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

February 15, 2026 - 10:30 am

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Transfiguration of Our Lord

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism (starting soon). Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	JAM Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult Sunday School
10:30 am	Late Worship
2:00 pm	Chapel Communion

(2nd Sunday of the month)

LIVESTREAM AND RECORDED WORSHIP: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website

SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA: Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHISM JAM Sunday School (church basement) and Adult Sunday School (lounge) meet each Sunday at 9:15 am. First year catechism will start soon! If you have a child in 6-7th grade interested please let Pastor Rayl know.

NURSERY is in the church basement and is now available during 2nd Service each week; you are welcome to sit with your child as well. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

RESTROOMS are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

FLOWERS: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

MEMORIALS: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap	shampoo, child	disposable razors
paper towel	laundry soap	toothbrush, adult
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	toothpaste, adult
tissues	body lotion	sanitary pads
deodorant	body soap	band aids
shampoo, adult		

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members.

If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month. If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Nancy Russell

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn “Cold December Flies Away” No. 299

Invocation

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: 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.

P: The former things have 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.

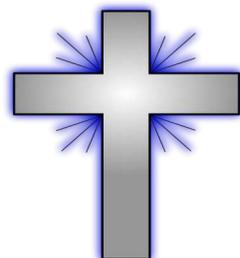
C: Amen.

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, “Peace be with you.” We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:



LENTEN & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Here is the schedule for our upcoming Lent services.

Feb 18 th	Ash Wednesday	11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Feb 25 th	Lenten Services	11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Mar 4 th	Lenten Services	11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Mar 11 th	Lenten Services	11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Mar 18 th	Lenten Services	11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Mar 25 th	Lenten Services	11:00 am, 7:00 pm
Mar 29 th	Palm Sunday	8:00 am, 10:30 am
April 2 nd	Maundy Thursday	11:00 am, 7:00 pm
April 3 rd	Good Friday	12:00 pm
April 5 th	Easter Sunday	8:00 am, 10:30 am

**Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee
at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.**

- Songs of Thankfulness and Praise ELW 310 (verse 4)

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

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. This 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. Some churches 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.

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the Lord" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹²The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Sherrie Haar
Bob Haar

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Hear us, O Lord,

C: your mercy is great.

P: Hear us as we pray:

The Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)

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.

Blessing

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and
tuned your heart for praise (✠) bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

"In Thee is Gladness"

No. 867

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Nancy Russell

will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.”¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God.¹⁴ To 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.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.¹⁶ The 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.¹⁷ Now 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.¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 2

¹ Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?

² The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and his anointed, saying,

³ “Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast their cords from us.”

⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the LORD has them in derision.

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

⁶ “I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.”

⁷ I will tell of the decree of the LORD:

He said to me, “You are my son;
today I have begotten you.

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear;
with trembling ¹² kiss his feet,
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Happy are all who take refuge in him.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation *(sung by the congregation)*



Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 17.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

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.”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Bob Haar

Sermon Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

No. 838

(Please stand)

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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. 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.