

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Communicants believing this word of promise receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# The Transfiguration of our Lord

February 11, 2024

## INTROIT

*Psalm 99:1-5; Antiphon: Psalm 99:9*

*Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His holy mountain,  
for the Lord our God is holy.*

*The Lord reigns; let the nations tremble;*

*He sits enthroned between the cherubim; let the earth shake.*

*The Lord is great in Zion;*

*He is exalted over all the peoples.*

*Let them praise Your great and awesome name!*

*Holy is he!*

*The King in his might loves justice.*

*You have established equity;*

*You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.*

*Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool;*

*Holy is he!*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain,  
for the Lord our God is holy.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** *O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King of His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C** *♪[Amen]♪*

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 117:1-2a; Psalm 96:8*

*Praise the LORD, all nations!*

*Extol him, all peoples!*

*For great is his steadfast love toward us,*

*and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.*

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;*

*bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

## RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition: **P** *Lord, in Your mercy,* **C** *hear our prayer.*

## **Exodus 34:29–35 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup> Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. <sup>32</sup> Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup> And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

<sup>34</sup> Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, <sup>35</sup> the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

## **2 Corinthians 3:12-18, 4:1-6 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.

<sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ

is it taken away. <sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

<sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **Mark 9:2-9 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses,

and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the

cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” <sup>8</sup> And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

<sup>9</sup> And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.



Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

2 Kings 2:1–12 or Exodus 34:29–35

2 Corinthians 3:12–13 (14–18); 4:1–6

Mark 9:2–9

### *The Face of Jesus Christ Manifests the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God*

It was “*a hard thing*” that Elisha asked, but by his persistence he was able to see the Prophet Elijah being taken “*by a whirlwind into heaven.*” Although “*chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them,*” Elisha received Elijah’s cloak and a “*double portion*” of his spirit for preaching the Lord’s Word (2 Kings 2:9–11). It was a hard thing, too, for Israel to see Moses and come near to him, when “*the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God*” (Ex. 34:29–30). Therefore, after “*he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai,*” Moses “*put a veil over his face*” (Ex. 34:32–33). Only the Word of the Gospel lifts the veil, and “*only through Christ is it taken away*” (2 Cor. 3:14). Thus are we able to behold “*the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,*” who is “*the image of God*” (2 Cor. 4:4–6). For the Law and the Prophets are all fulfilled in Him. Therefore, “*listen to Him,*” and fix your sights on “*Jesus only*” (Mark 9:7–8).

### *Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:*

February 21: First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 25:1-10 (v.14); James 1:12-18; Mark 1:9-15