

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

9:00 am Sunday, February 15, 2026

Pastor Dave Johnson

TODAY'S REFLECTION



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.

All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

“Precious Lord, Take my Hand” page 9

▲ **Confession & 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 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 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. **Amen.**

▲ **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.**

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

The First Reading is from Exodus 24:12-18

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

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 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. 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. Moses 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.**

▼ **God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)**

Psalm 2

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

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

"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast their cords from us."

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

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

"I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my son;
today I have begotten you.

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

You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

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

Serve the Lord with fear; with trembling
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.

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

The Second Reading is from 2 Peter 1:16-21

For 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. 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." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

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. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 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.**

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9

Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 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." 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!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

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.**

▼ **Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult", page 10

▲ **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. 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.

▲ **Prayers of the Church**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence

Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve (especially for those we name before you either in silence or out loud).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

January—March Mission Designation ~ **World Hunger**

▼ **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 and Words of Institution**

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, 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.

▼ **The 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 and Distribution of Communion**

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

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAL BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

▼ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

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.**

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

"I Love to Tell the Story" page 11

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 near, When my life is al - most gone,
 near, And the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
 At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD, 66 9 D; George N. Allen; arr. by Kelly Dobbs Mickus, b.1966

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Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me:"
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

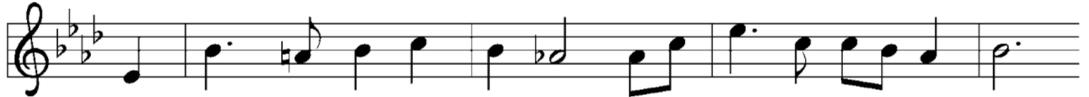
Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895

Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video

Tuesday 9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room
9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom

Wednesday 10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
6:00 pm Confirmation Classes

Thursday 7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room
11:00 am Crossroads Bible Study For ALL in Conference Room
6:30 pm Pub Theology

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