

You may now contact Pastor Cathleen on a landline, #608-435-0097. This telephone itself is a “Caption Call”. This means a written display of what you are saying is displayed for Pastor to read, and continue the conversation. Be patient, it takes a few seconds for your side of the conversation to be displayed. You may also leave a voice mail message.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever, To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008
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St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

Transfiguration of Our Lord
Last Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2020

**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ’s Family
in Spreading God’s Love and Mercy**

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.

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God**

Welcome Your Neighbors

Announcements

Prelude.....A time for silent reflection

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.
(*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

God who searches us and knows us,

**you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
With what shall we come before you?
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
Receive the promise of baptism:
You are God's child; your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn "Arise, Your Light Has Come!"

ELW #314

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation, Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,

Nail Clippers: Metal, with or without nail file

Toothbrushes (please leave in original packaging)

We have around 115 bath towels at this time, however, if you find a
good price on a bath towel, please don't hesitate to make the purchase.

—We are a busy people and often have conflicts on Sunday morning
which preclude us from attending church. However, whether we are in
the pews or not, the bills of the church need to be paid. If you are
interested in setting up an offering which would automatically transfer
funds from your checking/savings account to the church account, or if
you prefer to have your credit card charged, forms are available in the
narthex. If you have any questions, please direct them to Nalani.

—“Grace to You and Peace”, a yearlong devotional journey through the Epistles by Norma Cook Everist has been provided through Wartburg Seminary. We have sent the devotional through e-mail to our members. February and March readings are on the table in the narthex. Extra copies will be made, as needed. Just ask Nalani and she will get a copy to you. **You are invited to attend a time of discussion on the Epistles, today, following worship. We will gather in the front pews for approximately 30 minutes.**

—A “Caring for Souls Concert” will be held at 2:00 PM today at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4141 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse. Music will be provided by the Central High School robed choir as well as other musical ensembles from Central. The featured speaker will be Renee Splichal Larson. You will recall Renee and Ben Larson were in Haiti in 2010 when an earthquake struck. Ben did not survive. A spaghetti supper will follow the concert. Please direct your attention to the flyer on the bulletin board for additional information.

—Please support the W-ELCA pancake supper on Tuesday. All you can eat pancakes, along with two sausages, applesauce, milk and coffee.

—Please have your articles for the March/April newsletter to the office by noon on Wednesday, February 26. Thank you.

—Pastor Morris will meet with the confirmation mentors after worship on Ash Wednesday. Mentors, please mark your calendars.

—The W-ELCA group will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits again this year during lent. While lent is a few weeks off, it’s never too early to begin looking for items, especially since sales seem to run frequently. The following are items needed:

Soap: Bath size bars
Combs: Sturdy

and for the unity of all, Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*Canticle of Praise

“This is the Feast”

ELW p.149

*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.

FIRST READING

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days

Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

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.

Exodus 24:12-18

¹²The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain

of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The 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. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses 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.**

Psalm 2

¹Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

²**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD’s anointed?**

³“Let us break their yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their bonds from us.”

⁴**God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.**

⁵Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶**“As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**

⁷Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

⁹You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

¹⁰**And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

¹²**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

Sending “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW # 318

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Bill Collar, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von Haden, Ruth Johnson, Drew Thurston, Doug Nevin

IN THE MILITARY

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty; Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris, Organist: Nalani Bever, Greeters: Karen Arzt & Ed Ross, Reader: Carolyn Dougherty, Altar: Barb Ornes & Lori Brueggen, Communion Server: Leonard Arndt Ushers: Lori & Joel Arndt, Barb & John Ornes

Calendar for February 23—March 1

Today	Epistle Discussion	11:30 AM
	“Caring for Souls Concert”	2:00 PM
Tues., Feb 25	Pancake Super	4:30 PM—6:30 PM
Wed., Feb. 26	Newsletter Deadline	Noon
	Ash Wednesday Worship Service	7:00 PM
	Mentor Meeting	Following Worship
Sun., Mar 1	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	Worship Service	10:15 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p.153

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Faithful God,
you have kept your promise to us in this meal,
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.
Now send your servants forth in peace,
that we may testify to your goodness
and share the hope that is ours
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen**

Benediction

SECOND READING

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.

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For 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.”

¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So 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. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because 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.**

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.151

GOSPEL READING

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.

The gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if

you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice 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 looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As 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

*Hymn “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” **ELW #834**

***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 (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us show signs of Christ’s peace.

OFFERING

*Offertory Hymn

“We Are An Offering”

ELW #692

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

*Offertory Prayer

**God of wonder,
you formed us in our mother’s womb,
and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine.
We place them on your table,
together with our lives and all that you have made.
Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.
We wait for your mercy;
we long for your peace;
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,
our banquet of life.
Amen.**

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 our Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
we praise your name and join their unending hymn: