



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

March 2, 2025
Transfiguration Sunday

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Coming Up

Mark your calendars for April 12. The second in the Trinity Arts concert series begins at 4 p.m. The concert will feature the Woodward String Quartet from the Detroit Symphony. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Spread the word, invite family and friends. A reception follows the concert. Proceeds support our Music Outreach Program.

Midweek Holden Services will be part of our Lenten Season. The informal services will take place in the Fellowship Hall beginning March 12. There will be a simple meal at 5 p.m. and the service will begin at 6 p.m.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Nash, Jeff

Thames Area Clergy: The people of St. John Lutheran Church, Aylmer

Introduction to the day

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

Hymns

WOV #788 Glory to God

ELW #631 Love divine, all loves
excelling

ELW #671 Shine, Jesus, shine

ELW #834 Immortal invisible, God only
wise

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

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 the
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: 99

¹ The Lord is king; let the ^l people
tremble.

The Lord is enthroned upon the
cherubim; let ^l the earth shake.

² **The Lord, ^l great in Zion,
is high a- ^lbove all peoples.**

³ Let them confess God's name, which
is ^l great and awesome;

God is the ^l Holy One.

⁴ **O mighty king, lover of justice,
you have es- ^ltablished equity;
you have executed justice and
righteous- ^lness in Jacob.**

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of
the Lord and fall down be- ^lfore God's
footstool;

God is the ^l Holy One.

⁶ **Moses and Aaron among your
priests, and Samuel among those
who call upon your ^lname, O Lord,
they called upon you, and
you ^lanswered them,**

⁷ you spoke to them out of the pil- ^llar

of cloud;

they kept your testimonies and the decree ¹ that you gave them.

⁸ O Lord our God, you answered ¹ them indeed; you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their ¹ evil deeds.

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and worship upon God's ¹ holy hill;

for the Lord our God is the ¹ Holy One.

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

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.

^{4:1} 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

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.

Sermon

On the mountaintop

There is a question seminary students get asked a lot ... “What was your Jesus moment?”

There are some variations, like “What was your coming to Jesus moment?” or “What was your mountaintop moment?”

But the gist of them is pretty much the same ... what led them into the ministry.

For some, it was one moment of epiphany ... when they saw or experienced something that can only be described as “the Divine.” It was like someone hit a light switch and the direction of their life changed.

For others, it was a series of smaller moments that built upon each other over time and it’s only with the passage of time and hindsight that you realize that something profound happened in your life.

For still others, it was a case of a little from column A and a little from column B.

One of my classmates was in that category.

Events in his life led him to contemplate spiritual matters ... through such reflection he found himself walking a trail in Spain.

A couple of years before he entered the seminary, he decided to walk the Camino de Santiago ... the pilgrimage route that leads to the tomb of the

Apostle James. Some parts of the trail raise more than 1,000 metres.

It was during his trek on the 800-kilometre route known as “the French Road,” that he had his moment.

He has been quite open about his experiences walking the Camino and urges others to experience the pilgrimage for themselves, but he never really talks about the exact moment when it turned for him.

I think it is because he struggles to find adequate words to describe a moment that ... perhaps ... might be indescribable. It is the mark of how powerful and personal such moments can be ... a moment when the divine is seen and recognized.

It is a moment that calls a person to bear witness to it in the world ... but how can you bear witness when the words aren’t there for you?

This morning, Luke tells us about Jesus, Peter, John and James travelling up the mountainside to pray.

The disciples begin to nod off during their time in prayer when they are startled.

They witness Jesus’ clothing becomes brilliantly white and his face changes while he is in prayer.

The disciples see Jesus speaking to Moses and Elijah ... two men who had experienced God and God’s majesty. The three speak of Jesus’ departure ... his death, resurrection and ascension in Jerusalem ... the event that will liberate the people from bondage to sin.

The apostles are overwhelmed by the sight.

They cannot find the right words to speak to the occasion. Peter struggles through and offers to build structures for Jesus, Moses and Elijah ... perhaps he is trying to honour the three and mark a sacred place ... or perhaps he is hoping to capture this moment of epiphany.

John and James simply watch.

Suddenly, a cloud envelopes the apostles and a voice affirms Jesus' identity. "This is my Son, my Chosen" the voice proclaims

They are the same words of affirmation that Jesus heard as he was baptized in the Jordan ... only this time, the words are directed toward the apostles ... and there is the additional instruction for them to "listen to him."

Luke invites those hearing the story to consider what it means to listen to Jesus.

How God's words of promise empower our ministry to the world and our relationship with those around us.

To wonder if there things that keep us from fully listening to Jesus? What are we listening to instead ... what truly holds our attention?

How do we bear witness to what we have heard ... do we even try?

For some, the words we hear are held close to our hearts and never shared ... we hold them tight and keep the comfort they offer to ourselves.

We are left wondering what the three Apostles did after they came down from the mountain.

After the four come down from the mountain and began their journey to Jerusalem and cross and tomb, the Apostles remained silent ... not sharing what they witnessed and experienced until after the events in Jerusalem.

Did they share with the others during the quiet moments as they followed Jesus to the cross? If we were in their place, would we share ... would we bear witness to the experience?

Would we remain silent?

This was the Apostles' moment of epiphany ... and like such moments in our lives ... it marked a turning point in their lives ... and affirmation of ministry and of purpose.

Maybe the deep, profound nature of the moment required time for the three to process. The Apostle's eyes were open in time to see what was happening, but they struggled to grasp what the moment represented.

It was only after Jesus' death and resurrection did they comprehend their mountaintop moment enough to fully share it in both word and deed.

Luke's story invites us to consider our own moments of epiphany ... those "mountaintop" moments when the divine appears before us and makes its presence known.

Have we been able to share such moments with others? Are we even willing to do so ... bearing witness to what the moments mean in the course of our life and our ministry?

Can we fully describe the experience to others? Are we afraid of what that moment might evoke in others?

This morning, Paul dares a congregation that faces division ... dares them to believe that they are transformed by the grace that comes through the cross. They are transformed just as Jesus was transformed on the mountaintop.

Paul tells the congregation in Corinth that in hope, they are to act in boldness... to live guided by the open statement of truth and be a reflection of the glory of God for the world to see.

We might want to hold onto the epiphany moments in our lives ... to build structures around them and remain with those moments on the mountaintops. We might want to remain in a place made sacred by the divine presence.

But doing so ... rejects the point of the moments of epiphany and affirmation that we experience.

These moments are to be carried out into the world. The call of ministry that these moments represent leads us ever outward in service and love to others.

Such moments are intended to direct our lives and our ministry ... they are the ground that anchors our work ... to help mend broken relationships ... to feed the hungry and heal those wounded by the world ... to bring peace to the hearts of those who are grieving.

As we join with Jesus and the Apostles in the final journey toward the cross, we are invited to prepare ourselves to bear witness to the divine love we have experienced in our lives ... to the call we hear and feel in our hearts

... and to identify the things ... the attitudes and perspectives ... that challenge us as we seek to share the experience of grace ... of God's unconditional love with those around us.

To simply ... stop ... listen ... experience ... and most of all ... share ... and allow that divine moment to change us and change the world.

AMEN

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

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.
The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

AMEN