

# Stewardship 2026

## Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.  
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,  
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**  
**8:00 AM Traditional Worship**  
**Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
**February 15, 2026**

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz

**Lector:** Colby Smith

**Acolyte:** TBD

**Ushers:** Jeffrey Morgan, Jerry Graffin, Jerry Buskager & Mark Holzhuter

**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: "Shine, Jesus, Shine" Kendrick/Bettcher**  
**First Class Ringers**

### **CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Brief silence for reflection.*

**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 <sup>☩</sup> Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Stand*

**HYMN: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" ELW #834 Vss. 1, 2 & 4**

**Vs. 1: Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**

**Vs. 2: Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Vs. 4: Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

## **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## LITANY

**P:** In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.**

**P:** In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

**P:** The word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE: “Arise, Your Light Has Come” ELW #314 Vss. 1,2 & 4

**Vs. 1: Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Vs. 2: Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Vs. 4: Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

## SALUTATION

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

*Sit*

## ANTHEM: “Lift Your Eyes and See the Glory” by Martin Chancel Choir

## **FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

<sup>12-13</sup>God said to Moses, “Climb higher up the mountain and wait there for me; I’ll give you tablets of stone, the teachings and commandments that I’ve written to instruct them.” So Moses got up, accompanied by Joshua his aide. And Moses climbed up the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>He told the elders of Israel, “Wait for us here until we return to you. You have Aaron and Hur with you; if there are any problems, go to them.” <sup>15-17</sup>Then Moses climbed the mountain. The Cloud covered the mountain. The Glory of God settled over Mount Sinai. The Cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day he called out of the Cloud to Moses. In the view of the Israelites below, the Glory of God looked like a raging fire at the top of the mountain. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the middle of the Cloud and climbed the mountain. Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Open My Eyes, That I May See”**

**Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp, and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 17th Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

<sup>1-3</sup>Six days later, three of them saw that glory. Jesus took Peter and the brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. Sunlight poured from his face. His clothes were filled with light. Then they realized that Moses and Elijah were also there in deep conversation with him. <sup>4</sup>Peter broke in, Master, this is a great moment! What would you think if I built three memorials here on the mountain—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah?” <sup>5</sup>While he was

going on like this, babbling, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and sounding from deep in the cloud a voice: “This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of my delight. Listen to him.” <sup>6-8</sup> When the disciples heard it, they fell flat on their faces, scared to death. But Jesus came over and touched them. “Don’t be afraid.” When they opened their eyes and looked around all they saw was Jesus, only Jesus. <sup>9</sup> Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. “Don’t breathe a word of what you’ve seen. After the Son of Man is raised from the dead, you are free to talk.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## **SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN: “Beautiful Savior” ELW #838 Vss. 1- 4**

**Vs. 1: Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee,  
truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Vs. 2: Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**Vs. 3: Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.**

**Vs. 4: Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!**

## **APOSTLE’S 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**

**P:** 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*

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERTORY: "Come to the Mountain" by Tunseth**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** God of Majesty,

**C: 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.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **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 TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see. The body of Christ given for you. The  
blood of Christ shed for you.

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew.*

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you  
in his grace till life everlasting.

**C: Amen**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Radiant God,

**C: 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.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

### **BLESSING**

**P:** May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your  
heart for praise  $\pm$  bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING HYMN: “How Good Lord to Be Here ” ELW #315 Vss. 1; 2 & 5**

**Vs. 1: How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night;  
your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.**

**Vs. 2: How good, Lord, to be here! your beauty to behold  
where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.**

**Vs. 5: How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;  
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.**

**POSTLUDE: “Come and See” by LeBlanc**