

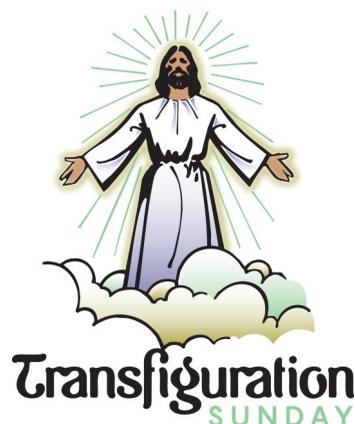
Transfiguration: Amazing Then and Now

Imagine what would happen if someone from the days of Jesus were suddenly transported to our present. How would someone accustomed to walking everywhere respond to driving in a car at top speed, let alone flying in a jet? How would someone who spends their life depending on—at best—oil lamps for light respond to electric lights? It is fun to muse at how people might respond, as we reflect on how sophisticated we are.

Now imagine if the scene were reversed. How would someone accustomed to understanding much in the world around them respond to an event as otherworldly as the transfiguration? We understand volcanoes and the northern lights. We can explain lightning and thunder. We know about germs and disease transmission. So what would we do when confronted with something so amazing, awesome, and unexplainable?

The transfiguration is one of those ancient events that still puzzle us. What really happened to Jesus that day? Since we cannot go back to that time, we are left to speculate. We take stabs in the dark and make educated guesses, but at the end of the day we are left with a holy mystery to ponder.

Whatever happened that day, there is a timeless spiritual reality behind the physical details Mark gives us. God sometimes uses extreme and amazing methods to transform us when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. God's spirit transfigured Jesus then. That same Spirit is still transforming people today. We don't have to explain first-century miracles to trust that God's transforming Spirit is timeless and at work within each of us today. We do not have to understand everything to see the beauty of God at work in the world, continually transfiguring us into the people we were created to be.



1300 East 10th Street Sioux Falls SD 57103-1796
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TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 11, 2018 — 5:00 pm

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please be sure your cell phone has been turned off. Thank you for being considerate!

THE ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** In the Name of the Father and of the Son **✝** and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Gracious God,
- C** **in Jesus Christ you come to us like a light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. We confess the sin which divides us and too often rules our lives. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth that Christ is Lord. Amen.**

☞ People of God, I bring you good news of great joy: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name.

☞ **Amen.**

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

☞ 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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine out of darkness at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In 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. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

☞ This is the Word of the Lord. ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus,

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ O Morning Star, fair and bright,

☞ **You have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now— today, tomorrow, every day— that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.**

Amen

THE BENEDICTION

☞ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Amen.**

- ☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
☛ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

☞ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. With the choirs of angels, the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven, we give our praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

☛ **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☛ **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.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and His Real Presence in the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We will gladly commune anyone in their seat if they are unable to come forward for communion. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray. Gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

THE BLESSING

☞ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☛ **Amen.**

“Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord. ☛ **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Marlin Wangness

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☞ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☛ **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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

☞ The Lord be with you.

☛ **And also with you.**

☞ Lift up your hearts.

☛ **We lift them to the Lord.**