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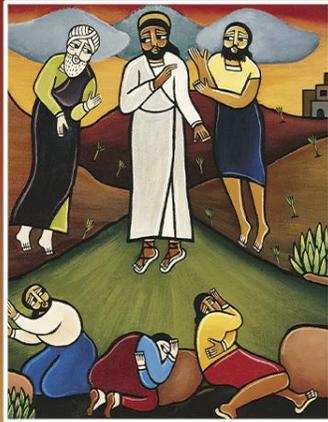
# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

9:00 a.m.

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Jesus was  
*transfigured*  
before them

MATTHEW 17:2

## **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

*We are a community that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus Christ, and we provide as many opportunities as we can to help everyone grow spiritually and in loving service to the community and the world.*

*We're glad you're here. We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and celebrate the work we're able to do together.  
(to learn more about the ELCA visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)).*

*Those joining worship online, whether live or later in the week, are invited to prepare their worship space by creating a home altar. You might include meaningful linens, candles, a cross, enough bread or crackers and wine or juice for everyone at your table, and anything that helps you engage more fully in worship.  
This altar becomes a gathering place for prayers, songs, communion, and a shared sense of God's presence in your home.*

### **✠ GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE ✠**

**~ The gathering responds together with texts in bold print ~**

## **WELCOME**

*Welcome to worship. 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.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP "I Will Call Upon The Lord"**

CCLI# 241462

*Lower Voices:*

**I will call upon the Lord,**

**Who is worthy to be praised.**

**So Shall I be saved from mine enemies.**

*Higher Voices:*

**I will call upon the Lord,**

**Who is worthy to be praised.**

**So Shall I be saved from mine enemies.**

*Chorus All: The Lord liveth, and blessed be the rock,  
and may the God of my salvation be exalted.  
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the rock,  
and may the God of my salvation be exalted. Repeat*

**LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Find the full list of Life Together announcements near the end of the bulletin.*

**OPENING SONG "Love the Lord"**

**Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and all your  
Soul and all your mind, and love all humankind as  
You would love yourself and...**

**Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and all your  
Soul and mind, and love all humankind...**

**We've got Christian lives to live, We've got Jesus' love to give,  
We've got nothing to hide. Because in Him we all have love... Repeat**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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 is kept 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.**

## **GREETING**

The immeasurable grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the rich mercy and love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **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.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC      "MY SAVIOR, MY GOD."**

**✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Exodus 24:12-18**

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

A reading from Exodus

<sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>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."

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 2**

*The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse; the gathering's response is in bold print.*

<sup>1</sup>Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

**<sup>2</sup>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?**

<sup>3</sup>"Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us."

**<sup>4</sup>God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the Lord holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

**<sup>6</sup>"As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

<sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree of the Lord, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you."

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the Lord with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

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

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**2 Peter 1:16-21**

*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.*

A reading from 2 Peter

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.” <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 17:1-9**

*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 Holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is the story of God's unconditional love flowing down.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>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.” <sup>5</sup>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!” <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup>And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>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."

This is the story of grace upon grace that covers us. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**Reverend Christina Kadelbach**

## **SONG OF THE DAY**

**"Shine Jesus Shine."**

**ELW 671**

*Refrain: Shine Jesus shine; fill this land with the Father's glory;*

**Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;**

**Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of darkness shining;**

**Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,**

**set us free by the truth You now bring us.**

**Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain***

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,**

**so our faces display your likeness.**

**Ever changing from glory to glory,**

**mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.**

**Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain***

## **✠ SHARING & RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD ✠**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

In every moment, on the mountaintop and in the valley, God is present, transforming, and calling us forward. With the whole church, let us 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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.

*Each petition ends with: Merciful God,  
The gathering responds: **receive our prayer.***

*The prayers conclude:*

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.**

## PEACE

May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fill you with unconditional love, mend you with mercy, and grant you perfect peace. **And also with you.**

*We are changed by Christ's peace and now we have the holy opportunity to extend that peace to others.*

## OFFERING

*Giving is an act of worship our response to God's goodness and grace.*

*Your gifts support the ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Church and extend God's love into the world. During this time the table is set.*

*For the healing of this world, let us give our tithes and offerings.*

Ways to Give:

- Give electronically through Vanco Services.
- Use the giving app by scanning the QR code.
- Recurring or one-time online options <https://app.autobooks.co/pay/bethesda-lutheran-church-of-malmo>



*Thank you for your faithful and generous support.*

## 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.**

## BURNING OF THE PALMS AND BLESSING OF THE ASHES

*The presiding minister leads the burning of the palms. Silence is held as the palms are burnt. The gathering responds: Let us pray. God of dust and glory,*

**bless these ashes that they may be a sign of our surrender and our hope as they mark our foreheads, let them mark our hearts, reminding us that we are dust and to dust we shall return, yet held always in your love. May these ashes be not just a sign of our mortality, but of your promise, that even from dust, you bring life; even from sorrow, you bring joy; even from endings, you make all things new. In the name of Jesus Christ, who walked the road to the cross and leads us still. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presiding minister leads the words of institution. The gathering responds: Amen.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

**Our Father in heaven, holy be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us the wrong we have done  
As we forgive those who wrong us.**

**And do not put us to the test, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
Are yours, now and forever, forever.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Holy Communion is a gift of grace, where we receive the presence of Jesus in bread and wine and are reminded that we are deeply loved. All who hunger for mercy and hope are welcome at this feast. Jesus is the host, and the invitation is wide. Even across time and space, God is present in these gifts, and we, the community, are present to one another.*

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

## **GLITTER BLESSING**

*As you come forward for communion, you are also invited to receive a glitter blessing, a gentle shimmering sign of God's light and love resting upon you.*

## **BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**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.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

## **BLESSING**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



# I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661



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.



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.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911  
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

*We're so glad you joined us for worship today.  
Wherever life finds you, know that this community welcomes you with open hearts.*

*Acknowledgements: Texts and hymns from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS028183. New Revised Standard Version updated edition Bible Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Additional Liturgical texts adapted for Bethesda Lutheran by Reverend Christina Kadelbach. Cover Image: Transfiguration 2000 by Laura James. Copyright © Laura James. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.*

## **LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Life together announcements reflect the shared life of our congregation by highlighting upcoming events, service opportunities, and ways we continue to grow in faith together.*

*We invite you to read through what's ahead and participate as you are able. Your presence matters.*

### **PRAYER & CARE LIST** Jim Christensen, Pam Dugdale, Sherry Whipple

*As a community of faith, we are committed to holding one another in prayer and care.*

*We invite you to pray for those listed here and offer support as you are able.*

*To request prayers for yourself or someone else (with their permission).*

*Please get in touch with the church office.*

**WELCOME** Friends in Christ, we're glad you're here. Your presence is a gift to this community. If you would like us to be in touch or want to learn more about Bethesda, you're welcome to share your name in the friendship/welcome notebook.

**CHILDREN WELCOME** Children are a gift we celebrate and are welcome at Holy Communion. We trust that worship belongs to people of all ages. A quieter, unstaffed nursery is available through the double doors to the left when exiting the sanctuary. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available in the narthex.

**WELCOME NOTEBOOK** Please take a moment to sign the friendship notebook in the black folder at the end of your pew. Passing it along is a simple act of hospitality that helps us learn one another's names and extend the warmth of Christ's welcome to all.

**NAME TAGS** Help your neighbors, and your pastor, remember your name! Name tags make it easier to connect and grow together in community. Sticker name tags are available near the guest book at the main entrance.

**PASTORAL CARE** Caring for one another is part of who we are. If you are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please let Pastor Christina or one of our parish nurses know. We would be honored to support you.

**COFFEE HOSPITALITY** Coffee and conversation are part of how we care for one another. If you'd like to help serve coffee or share a treat, your presence makes a difference. Sign-up information is available, and contributions for the freezer are always welcome.

**LECTORS** Thank you to those who share their voices in the reading of Scripture. Newly updated readings for the upcoming weeks are available on the table in the narthex.

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** The ministry of serving Holy Communion is shared by many. If you are interested in serving at the table, Pastor Christina would love to visit with you. Please contact the church office to begin the conversation.

**LIFE-LINE NEWSLETTER** Articles and announcements for the March Bethesda Lifeline newsletter are due by February 20. If you have updates, events, or stories to share with the congregation, please submit them to the church office by that date so they can be included. Thank you for helping keep our community connected!

**FREE-BEE MARKET** A Facebook group where generosity gathers and good gifts are shared. Join our local community in giving freely, receiving gratefully, and passing along blessings. Find us on the Bethesda Facebook page under Groups, or comment on the post to be added.

**SEASONS OF LIFE** • March 11 – Hospice • April 15 – Funeral Planning

**JUNK BINGO TODAY Sunday, February 15 | 2:00–4:00 p.m.** Junk Bingo is back! Come for the Bingo, stay for the laughs, and leave with a treasure you didn't

know you needed. Friends and neighbors welcome. We play by freewill offering, with proceeds supporting the Bethesda's mission and evangelism benevolence ministries. Do you have items that need a new home? Drop off games, toys, and fun finds at the church from February 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> to be featured on the prize tables. Bonus: we're also looking for a Bingo caller- volunteers encouraged! Contact Joanne S. for details.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Tuesday, February 17 | 9:00 a.m. Join us for pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, and good company as we prepare our hearts for Lent. Hosted by Mary B. and Pastor. No cost, just come and enjoy!

### **LENTEN WORSHIP & FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm.**  
Worship with the imposition of ashes begins at 12:00 pm, followed by a potluck lunch.
- **Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship at Noon** (following Ash Wednesday)  
Wednesdays, February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Our worship will be guided by the Holden Evening Prayer  
Potluck lunch to follow.  
The noon worship will be live-streamed each week.
- **Lenten Devotional Booklets**  
Devotional booklets will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday. These weekly devotions follow the scriptures of the *Tell Me Something Good* series through Easter Sunday and include commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, written reflections, and prayer and conversation prompts.

### **RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK**

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> In person: 64 Online: 22

### **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

#### **Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Council Meeting

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

#### **Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Shrove Tuesday**

9:00 am Pancake Breakfast

\*No chair yoga

#### **Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday**

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

12:00 pm Ash Wednesday worship, Potluck to follow

#### **Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am ROMEOs (Men's fellowship & study)

9:15 am Chair Yoga

#### **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, First Sunday in Lent**

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Girl Scout Cookie Sales after Worship

**Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org**

Office: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123)

Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@gmail.com

*A member congregation of the NE MN Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

**Ministers:** All People of Bethesda Lutheran Church

**Pastoral Ministries:** Reverend Christina Kadelbach

[blc.reverend@gmail.com](mailto:blc.reverend@gmail.com) 218-213-6731

**Church Secretary:** Mary Braun

**Music & Sound Technician:** Jim Christensen

**Parish Nurses:** Darlene Christensen, RN, Kathy Berland RN ANP

**Prayer Chain Contacts:** Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

**February Altar Care:** Winnie Zahradka, Sylvia Tapelt

**Ushers:** Darrel Kelly, Dick Stebbins

**Greeters:** Char Berg, Carolyn Morris

**Lector:** Mary Vukelich

**Hospitality:** Carol & Larry Pantsari

**Praise Choir:** Darlene & Jim Christensen, Sheila Penoyer, Sherry Whipple

**Serving on February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Ushers:** Barry & Donna Ansell

**Greeters:** Bev & Wally Swenson

**Lector:** Need Volunteer

**Hospitality:** Need Volunteers