

March 2nd, 2025
Last Sunday after Epiphany -Transfiguration



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
513.677.9357 abidingword.com

Pastor -Troy Jacobs 937.503.3333 welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com

Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Please join us for coffee after the service. Join us for Bible Class today.

GLORY IS HIDDEN IN ORDER TO BE REVEALED

Would you look directly at the sun? Only if you wanted to burn your retinas and have permanent blind spots. Would you like to look directly at God? It sounds wonderful in theory. Yet Scripture describes God's glory as being brighter than the sun. Moreover, one component of God's glory is his holiness. Being holy doesn't just mean God loves good; he also hates evil with burning intensity. And we sin every day. No wonder the Lord once told Moses, "No one may see me and live" (Exodus 33:20). Sinners would die of fear if they saw God in all his holy glory.

So, how then can we possibly know God? How can we draw near to him without dying of terror? In our final epiphany moment of this season, God explains. God hides his glory in order to reveal himself. To carry out his good and glorious work of salvation, Jesus hid his glory and went to the cross. To allow sinners to stare at his glory without fear or harm, God hides it in the gospel. In the gospel, we see the glory of Christ's love, power, and salvation. The reality is that when God's glory is hidden, it is most on display.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

536 Jesus, Ever-Abiding Friend



1 Je - sus, ev - er - a - bid - ing friend, my soul's rest and
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior with crown of thorns, my soul's peace for -



jour - ney's end, blame - less one who e - rased my sin
ev - er - more, con - stant, car - ing, re - deem - ing Lord,



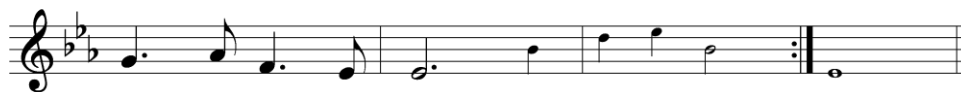
for e - ter - ni - ty; com - fort through my
life a - bun - dant - ly; rock of heav - en,



deep - est pain, love that sees be - yond my shame,
strength and shield, per - fect ho - li - ness re - vealed,



Christ, the sweet - est, dear - est name that my
Christ, by whom my wounds were healed— name a -



heart has ev - er known.
bove all oth - er names.

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THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Exodus 34:29–35

²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.

³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

³³When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2C Why Are Nations Raging

Psalm 2C

- 1 Why are nations raging
and conspiring plots in vain?
Rulers of the world rise up,
weaving webs of death and pain.
Then against the LORD they cry,
and against God's holy Son,
"Let us tear their bonds from us
and with their control be done."

- 2 But the Lord has scorn on them,
laughing and enthroned on high.
God brings wrath upon their work;
filled with anger God replies:
"It is my own holy will
that the Christ shall ever reign,
and on Zion's holy hill
my Anointed I'll maintain."

- 3 God's decree unto the King
tells us what the LORD did say:
"You are my own holy Son;
I've begotten you this day.
Ask of me and I will make
all the nations your own stay.
These possessions you shall rule,
strong as iron smashing clay."

- 4 Therefore, leaders of the earth,
serve the LORD with holy fear;
trembling come before the throne
or God's anger will appear.
Kiss God's feet in trembling awe
or the LORD will use the rod,
making beggars of all kings.
Blest are those who trust in God.

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SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 3:7–18

⁷Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

M: Alleluia. A cloud covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” Alleluia.

GOSPEL

LUKE 9:28–36

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. ³¹They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³²Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

³⁴While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” ³⁶When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN: DOWN FROM THE MOUNT OF GLORY

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SERMON

2 CORINTHIANS 3:7–18

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Always keep your people faithful to you. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ in the Word and sacraments. During all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus. Keep us safe and protect us from the tricks and treachery of the devil. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray that you move us to have compassion on those stumbling in the darkness and empower us to proclaim Christ to all who have no faith. Give us courage to be unashamed of the light you have given us and to carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear. Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and give them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on. *We especially pray for...* Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray that Christ reveals his gracious presence to all who suffer. We pray especially for our families and those in our circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone whose needs we hold in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without Christ. As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's sacrifice on the cross and give us hearts full of faith in him. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and all for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of 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.**

HYMN: CHRIST BEGINS

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Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

392 This Brightness, Lord! What Shall I Say

- 1 This brightness, Lord! What shall I say
to see your face outshine the day?
No greater gift could I receive;
I'll stay right here and never leave!
- 2 But Moses and Elijah know
the lengths to which your love must go.
What pleasure fills your Father's voice:
"My precious Son, my perfect choice!"
- 3 I quickly learn we cannot stay;
the brightness gone, you lead the way,
advancing down this mountainside
to where you'll soon be crucified.
- 4 Your living Word has let me see
the truth behind the bloody tree,
what makes your face profoundly shine—
you made my sin no longer mine.
- 5 No glory lights the plains below
where trials rise and troubles flow,
and yet I know you'll help me bear
each blessed cross that's waiting there.
- 6 I'll soon exchange this mountain sight
for heaven's everlasting light;
your brightness, Lord, will then be mine,
and then my face, like yours, will shine.

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