



Sunday, March 2, 2025
The Transfiguration of our Lord.

Service Theme

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.

389 How Good, Lord, to Be Here

CW 389



- 1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here your beau - ty to be - hold,
3 Ful - fil - ler of the past, and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.

- 5 But you, Lord, do not stay.
With mercy resolute
you leave this glorious hill to die—
our perfect substitute.
- 6 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.

Text (sts. 1–4, 6): Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.; (st. 5): Bryan Gerlach, b. 1954

Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt.

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Opening Prayer

M: In the name of Jesus our Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we call on you, dear heavenly Father:

C: **Hear us for Your name's sake.**

M: We approach you confidently this day, for we rely on Jesus, our Redeemer, for the full forgiveness of sins:

C: **Receive our thankful worship for His sake.**

M: By the Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and of Your will for our lives. Fill our hearts with joy and peace into eternity:

C: In You, O Lord, have we taken refuge; never let us be ashamed.

M: O Lord, our Rock and our Fortress, assure us that because you live, we shall live also:

C: In You we hope: Our praise is for You. Amen

M: Let us pray:

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.

C: Amen

Old Testament Lesson
Exodus 34:29–35 (EHV)

God's glory was reflected in the two-sided covenant of the law which He established through Moses. It made people afraid. Through Jesus God would establish a new, greater covenant which would remove all our fears.

²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not realize that the skin of his face was shining because he had been speaking with the LORD. ³⁰When Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, they were amazed that the skin of his face was shining, so they were afraid to come close to him. ³¹Moses called to them, so Aaron and all the rulers of the community returned to him, and Moses spoke to them. ³²Afterward, all the people of Israel came close to him, and he gave them all of the commands that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses was finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out again. Then he would come out and tell the people of Israel what he had been commanded.

³⁵Whenever the people of Israel saw Moses' face, they would see that the skin of Moses' face was shining. Then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with the LORD again.

2D Great Are the Works of the LORD

Psalm 2D

Refrain



Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

Tone



Why do the nations / conspire
and the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- /
gainst the LORD

and against his A- / noined. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;
the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, /
saying,

“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain.”

Refrain

I will proclaim the / LORD's decree:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your /
Father.”

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Epistle
2 Corinthians 3:7–18 (EHV)

Paul declares that the glory of the New Covenant of grace far surpasses the glory of the Old Covenant of law. The glory of the New Covenant is hidden in the work of Christ and revealed through the work of the Holy Spirit.

⁷If the ministry that brought death (which was engraved in letters on stone) came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look directly at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face (though it was fading), ⁸how will the ministry of the spirit not be much more glorious? ⁹For if the ministry that brought condemnation has glory, the ministry that brought righteousness has even more glory. ¹⁰In fact, in this case, what was glorious is no longer very glorious, because of the greater glory of that which surpasses it. ¹¹Indeed, if what is fading away was glorious, how much more glorious is that which is permanent!

¹²Therefore, since we have this kind of hope, we act with great boldness. ¹³We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the Israelites could not continue to look at the end of the radiance, as it was fading away. ¹⁴In spite of this, their minds were hardened. Yes, up to the present day, the same veil remains when the Old Testament is read. It has not been removed because it is taken away only in Christ. ¹⁵Instead, to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever someone 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. ¹⁸But all of us who reflect the Lord's glory with an unveiled face are being transformed into his own image, from one degree of glory to another. This too is from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

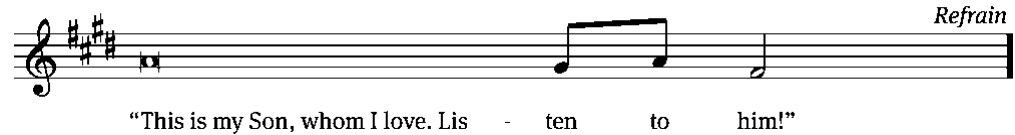
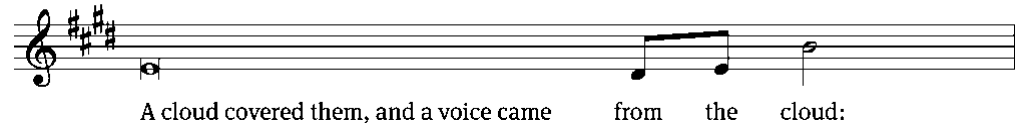
Mark 9:7



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel Luke 9:28–36 (EHV)

The glory of God, hidden in Christ, shines through on the Mount of Transfiguration.

²⁸About eight days after he said these words, Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰Just then, two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him! ³¹They appeared in glory and were talking about his departure, which he was going to bring to fulfillment in Jerusalem.

³²Peter and those with him were weighed down with sleep, but when they were completely 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's make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not realize what he was saying.

³⁴While he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them. They were afraid as they went into the cloud.

³⁵Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” ³⁶After the voice had spoken, they found Jesus alone. They kept this secret and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

M: This is the Gospel of the LORD.

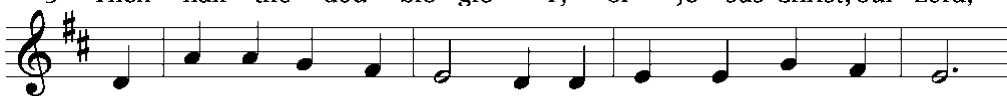
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

388 Down from the Mount of Glory

CW 388



1 Down from the mount of glo - ry came Je - sus Christ, our Lord.
 2 Trans - fig - ured, Christ, the low - ly, stood ra - diant in the light,
 3 Yet mark this glo - ry hid - den! See him the mount de - scend
 4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that is his fame
 5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry of Je - sus Christ, our Lord,



Re - call the won - drous sto - ry, rich gem in sa - cred Word.
 light found in God - head sole - ly, for hu - man eyes too bright.
 and, by the Fa - ther bid - den, his will - ing foot - steps bend
 our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed a mount—the hill of shame.
 and let the won - drous sto - ry full peace and joy af - ford!



A - gain your faith will view him in dou - ble glo - ry here;
 Then came a voice from heav - en, con - firmed what here we see;
 to seek hu - mil - i - a - tion in deep - est depths of woe,
 Up - on the cross he prof - fered him - self to ag - o - ny;
 The ho - ly mount ac - claims him the maj - es - ty di - vine;



the great - er hom - age due him will in your life ap - pear.
 the words “my Son” were giv - en to seal his de - i - ty.
 to suf - fer deg - ra - da - tion no mind can probe or know.
 his ho - ly soul he of - fered to set the guilt - y free.
 Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er—yours and mine.

Sermon Text & Theme

Luke 9:28-36. . . Listen to Jesus.

- 1) He is the revealed glory of God.
- 2) He is the central focus of all Scripture.
- 3) He is our future Hope.
- 4) He is the Saviour God chose.

Offertory Prayer

Confirmation of Nicholas and Venessa Semianiw

(The Confirmands are invited to stand before the altar)

M: Brother and sister in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

M: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

R: I do.

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

R: I do.

M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

R: 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.

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

R: I do.

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

R: I do.

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

(The minister addresses the congregation)

M: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for Nicholas and Vanessa, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in them. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

Prayer

M: Almighty God, in Baptism you made Nicholas and Vanessa members of the body of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. You washed them by his blood, buried them with him in his death, and gave them a new life in his resurrection. Renew them by the Holy Spirit, which you have poured out on them generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Let them live out their lives as heirs of eternal life. Lead them to serve your Church in holiness and righteousness all their days. Keep them in fellowship with all who wait for the return of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Individual Blessing

M: Nicholas/Vanessa, may God the Father who created you, may God the Son who redeemed you, may God the Holy Spirit who sanctified you keep you faithful unto life everlasting.

Nicholas' Verse

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

(John 10:27-28 NIV84)

Vanessa's Verse

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

(John 8:12 NIV84)

M: Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given to you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

633 Speak, O Lord

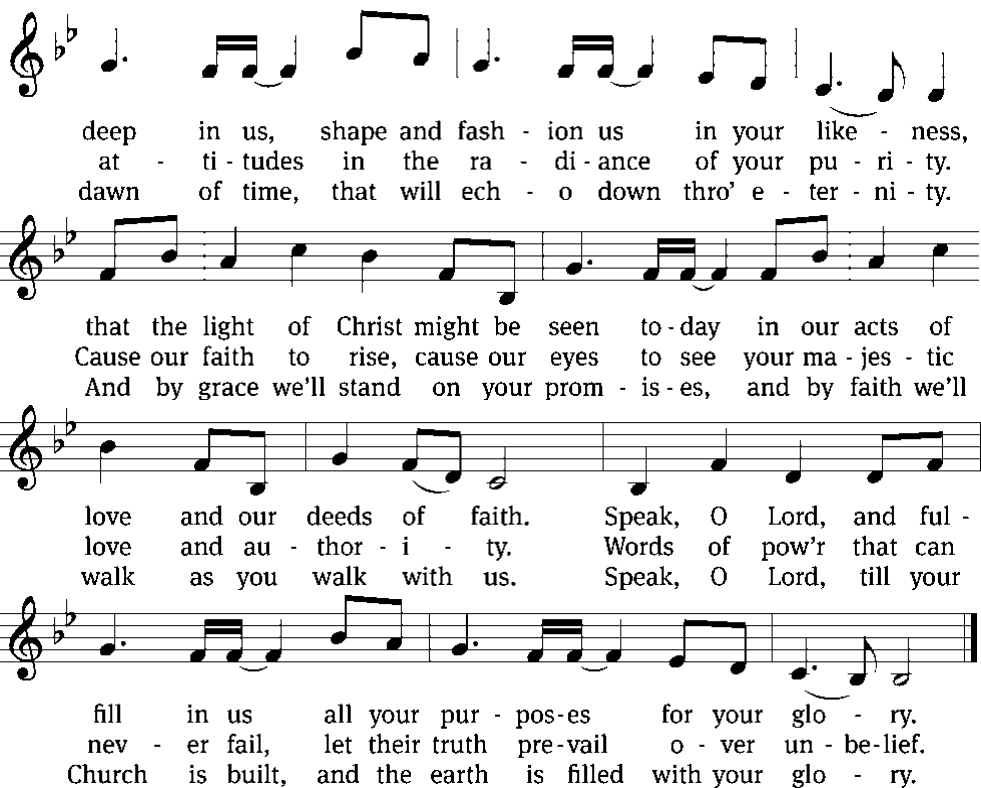
CW 633



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fashion us in your like - ness,
 at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
 dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.
 that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
 Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll
 love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
 walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your
 fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Confession and Absolution

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

- 1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

C: I do confess!

M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

- 2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

C: I do repent!

M: It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

- 3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

C: I do believe!

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, "*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16)

- 4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, "I do so promise!"

C: I do so promise!

M: It is right for you to promise because God's Word says, "*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*" (Matthew 3:8)

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.

Distribution

Thanksgiving

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

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:

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. [*Special petitions.*] 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

M: The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

522 Beautiful Savior

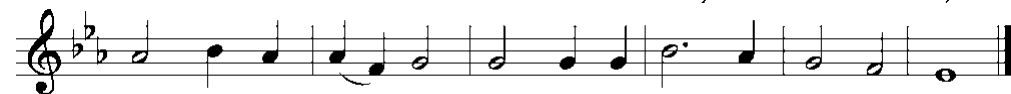
CW 522



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands, robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light, bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee,
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er,
spark - ling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er,
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,



tru - ly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
Je - sus is pur - er, he makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels in the sky.
praise, ad - o - ra - tion now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Announcements

Church Cleaners

March 9 – John // March 16 – Thomas

Seder Supper Survey

Please complete the Seder Supper Survey included in the Daily Prayers by Saturday, March 8th.

Divine Sisters Meeting

There is a Divine Sisters' Meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 9th, after worship.

Midweek Lenten Worship: Reflections on Repentance

Using David's great penitential Psalm 51 as our guide, this year's Midweek series of Lenten reflections explores the depths of our sinful depravity, the brokenness of our relationship with God, our dire need for rescue, and the good news of forgiveness, cleansing, and rejoicing in our restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life through Jesus our Saviour. Please join us every Wednesday evening until Palm Sunday at 7 p.m. as the WELS Ottawa pastors take turns leading us worship as the reflection on repentance.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (2)** 9:00 am **Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am **Worship with Communion**
11:30 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
- Tu (4) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (5) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
6:00 pm Pancake Dinner
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday (with Communion)
- Th (6) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfield Manor
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (7) 4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (9)** 9:00 am **Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am **Worship**
11:30 am Coffee Hour
- Tu (11) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (12) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service
- Th (13) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (14) 4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:30 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (16)** 9:00 am **Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am **Worship with Communion**
11:30 am Coffee Hour
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**



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