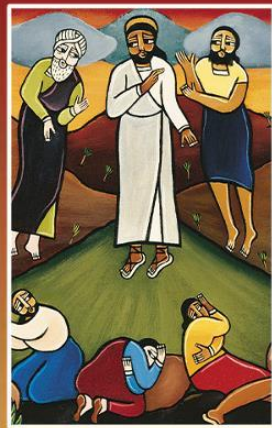


A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 15, 2026



Jesus was
transfigured
before them

MATTHEW 17:2

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.

To the parents of young children:

God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house – all are welcome! If you need to bring your child out of the service, the nursery is open for you with a TV in it streaming worship.

**Indicates an invitation to rise or stand*

Prelude

I Know a Name

By Steven Furtick, Brandon Lake, Jacob Sooter and Hank Bentley

Welcome

Black History Month Presentation

Libby Merlin

*Gathering Hymn

Shine Jesus Shine

ELW 671

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
 set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine on me, shine on me:
 Shine on me, shine on me:

*Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

All: And also with you.

*Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. (*Silence is kept for reflection*). Mighty God, lover of justice,

All: 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.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

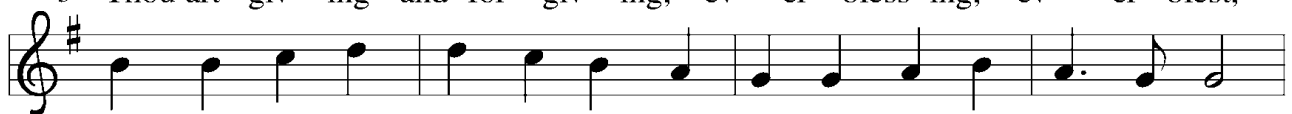
*Hymn of Praise

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (vs 1)

ELW 836



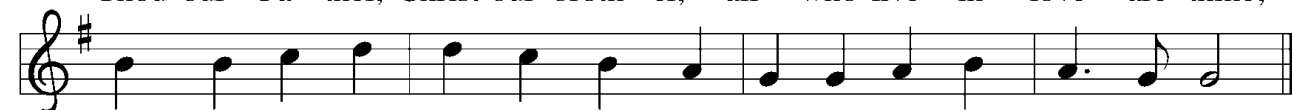
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

*Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray. O God,

All: 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.

Children's Message

Mary Merlin

Hymn

He's Got The Whole World in His Hands (VS 2)
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
he's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
he's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

First Reading – Exodus 24:12-18

¹²The 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." ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴To 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."

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The 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. ¹⁷Now 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. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – 2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶We 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. ¹⁷For 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." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So 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. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no

prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?* setting 3

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel Lesson – **Matthew 17:1-9**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 17th chapter,

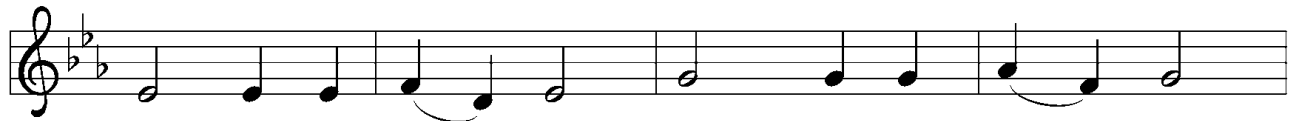
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

⁹As 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."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.



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



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

*Apostles' Creed

Leader: Gathered into one body, we profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: 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 power of 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.

Installation of Congregational Council- *you may be seated*

Pastor: The following people have been *elected* to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation. Dwayne Graham- President, Amy Johnson-Vice President, Mary Merlin-Secretary, Greg Damron-Treasurer, Karen Sundlie, Joyce Ohlson, Lynda Booth, and Diana Graham

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)* You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world. You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices
to which you have been *elected*?

Council: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Please stand.

Pastor: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

All: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Pastor: I now declare you installed as *officers / council members* of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

All: Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

You are invited to stand, kneel, or sit

Leader: 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. *(brief silence)* 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,

All: receive our prayer.

Leader: 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,

All: receive our prayer.

Leader: Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict (regions at war may be named). Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Leader: 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 (especially). Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Leader: 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,

All: receive our prayer.

Leader: 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,

All: receive our prayer.

Leader: 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.

All: Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

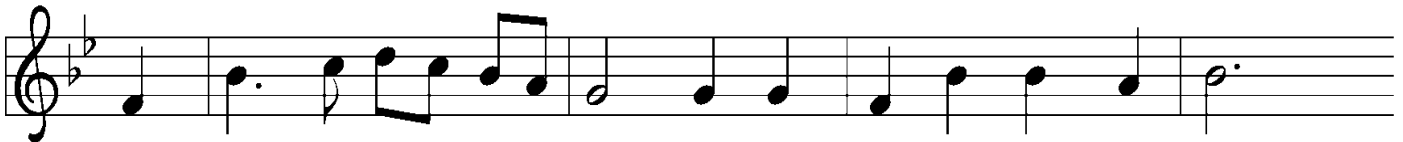
Scan the QR code
to give online



We are deeply grateful for the many ways you support the AMF community—through your time, talents, and generous donations. Your financial contributions, in particular, are vital to sustaining our ministries, maintaining our space, and reaching out in service to the world. As we continue to live into God’s mission together, we invite you to give as you are able. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

*Offertory Response

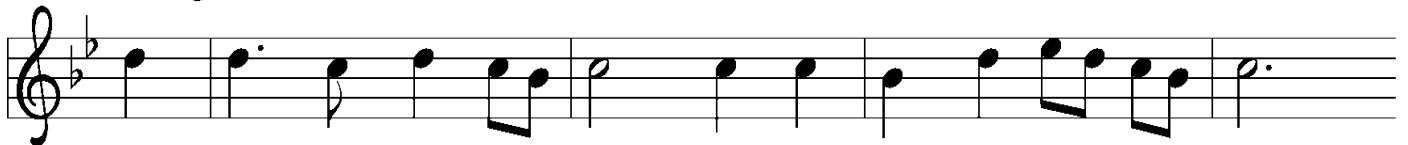
Sing to the Lord of Harvest (vs 3)



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

*Offering Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. God of majesty,

All: 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.

*The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant

in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

*The Lord’s Prayer

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: 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

Pastor: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

All: Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the Lord’s Table, so please join us. You are invited forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion of bread and wine. Please let a worship leader know if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice. If you prefer to commune using the individually packaged elements, there are some on the altar rail. For those worshipping virtually, now is the time to receive your previously blessed elements.

Lamb of God

Setting 3

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Prayer After Communion

Leader: Let us pray. Radiant God,

All: 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.

*Blessing

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

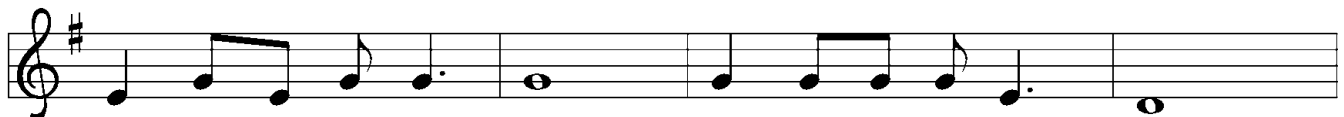
All: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

This Little Light of Mine



1	This lit - tle light of	mine,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine;
2	Ev - 'ry - where I	go,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine;
3	Je - sus gave it to	me,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine;



this lit - tle light of	mine,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine;
ev - 'ry - where I	go,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine;
Je - sus gave it to	me,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine;



this lit - tle light of	mine,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine,
ev - 'ry - where I	go,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine,
Je - sus gave it to	me,	I'm goin' - a	let it	shine,



let it	shine,	let it	shine,	let it	shine.
let it	shine,	let it	shine,	let it	shine.
let it	shine,	let it	shine,	let it	shine.

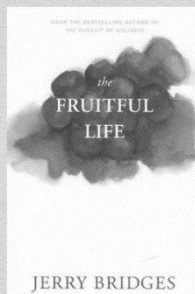
*Sending

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

Postlude

This Little Light of Mine

*Altar flowers are given in celebration of
Chris and Kathy's 40th wedding anniversary by Chris Dukes.*



Lent begins
NOT WITH STRIVING
but with grace.

Join our book study on
Wednesdays at 7pm via zoom

A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church | Lent Bible Study

If you need help getting a copy of
The Fruitful Life by Jerry Bridges or would be
interested in a mid-week in person option
pleases contact Mary Merlin.



**Ash Wednesday Service-
February 18th 12-1pm**

The beginning of Lent gives us the occasion to admit that we will die and that we are sinners. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes—a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin—but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace.

**AMF Committee Chairs and Ministry Leaders
MARK YOUR CALENDARS for
February 22nd at 6pm**

via zoom for the quarterly calendar sync meeting. Please email admin@amflc.org any events/dates/plans your committee has so that this meeting can be as efficient and collaborative as possible.

Prayer List

Members: Elaine Beal, Charles Burton, Penny Damron, Helen Kane, Pastor Mary Lautensleger, Barbara McGee, Pastor John Merck, Terry Price, Harry Sheldon, Patti Skinner and Carol Stroup.

Loved Ones: Students & staff at Paw Creek Elementary School, Russell & Tammy Bridges, friends of Grant & Esther Fulghum, Carol Howell (friend of the church), Anthony Long & his sister's family (friends of the church), Linda Meyer's sister (caretaker) & brother-in-law (cancer), Emily Hartner (NC Synod Bishop), Chris Peters (McGee's daughter-in-law's father), Elmer Sundlie, Ronnie Thomas (Father-in-law to Alyssa McGee Thomas), Larry & Cynthia Webb (friends of Amy Johnson), Alyssa McGeeThomas (daughter of Barbra & Jim McGee), McClain Family, Chris Normand, Eleanor & George Maksim (parents of Pamela Garn.)

You may send prayer requests or changes for the prayer list to admin@amflc.org

Worship Leadership

Pastor- Clarence Pettit

Worship Assistant – Mary Merlin

Organist/Music Director – Penny Damron

Pianist- Patti Skinner

Guitarist- Timothy Gentsch

Acolyte – Madelyn **Crucifer** – Madeline

Ushers – Chris and Kathy Dukes

Sound Board Operator – Joe Brigman

Livestream Operator – Danny Merlin

Office Administrator email - admin@amflc.org

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A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

A Mighty Fortress Charlotte, NC