

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parker, South Dakota

Rev. Don Reiffenberger, Pastor

Music Leaders: Shirley Oswald, Deone Christensen, Grace Reiffenberger, Michele Reiffenberger

Church Office: 297-4417 Pastor's Cell: 605-759-6065

graceluth@iw.net pastordongraceluth@gmail.com www.gracelutheranparker.com



Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 23, 2020

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.

PRELUDE, VISUAL PRAYERS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God said, "This is my Son, the Beloved."

All: **Let us worship you, O beloved God.**

Leader: God said, "Listen!"

All: **We want to hear your word anew this day.**

Leader: God said, "Do not be afraid."

All: **We lay our worries at your feet.**

Leader: And after all this was spoken, God was quiet.

All: **Still our souls, quiet our minds, and prepare us to be transformed, holy God.**

Leader: We rejoice that we are God's people and begin our Worship by proclaiming our shared statement of mission and ministry:

All: **"We believe we are forgiven and saved by faith in Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection. As people of God, through love, we are God's hands. We are called to invite and welcome everyone into the fellowship of believers. We worship together, teach His word, pray for, encourage and uplift each other. We witness to His love and forgiveness to our congregation, community and world." (Written by members from Grace Lutheran)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God, we come before you, and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours.

All: **Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there were no God, and we fall short of being a credible witness to you.**

Leader: For these things, we ask your forgiveness, and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to you in our world.

All: **Remind us to be who you would have us be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to you, and build our relationship with you and with others. Amen.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear and believe the Good News: the Holy and Sovereign God is also the God who came to save us in Jesus Christ.

All: **Our sins are forgiven, and we are freed to live the abundant life, empowered by the Holy Spirit! Thanks Be to God!**

OPENING HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

ELW 574

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: 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.

All: **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.**

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 24:12-18

THE READING RESPONSE

"Thanks Be to God!" (After each reading)

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 2

THE SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

KID TALK

"It's Almost Ash Wednesday" ✚

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain **standing** for The Gospel)

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

(Pew Bible p. 14 – New Testament)

GOSPEL RESPONSES

"Glory to You, O Lord" (After The Gospel is announced)

"Praise to You, O Christ" (After The Gospel is read)

SERMON

"Timely and Important Words"

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW 838

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Together let us proclaim our shared faith:

All: **We are not alone. We live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus to reconcile and to make all things new. We trust God, who calls us to be the church; to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified, dead and risen; our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Congregational response after each petition of "Lord, in your mercy:" "Hear our prayer.")

RETURNING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

"Examples are few of people ruined by giving." ~Christian Bovee~

Music Video – "I Belong to Jesus" (Selah)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"We Are Called"

ELW 720 (vs. 1 & Refrain)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: O God, sometimes it takes a mountaintop experience before we can see how tightly clenched our hands have been, or how hardened our hearts have become.

All: **Open us to be generous instruments of your love throughout the world, for the glory of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION/DISMISSAL

Leader: The Good News of God's love is not just a message for the mountaintop. It is a glorious charge and a holy calling. As we leave this house of worship, may we be transfigured ourselves – radiant and refreshed for God's mission.

All: **Let us depart with passionate hope and renewed energy. Let our lives be witnesses to the Gospel, and may God's Spirit come from each of us! Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Bind Us Together" (3x)

Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken

Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together

Bind us together with love

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving one another!

All: **Thanks Be to God!**

~Please join us for Ash Wednesday Worship this Wednesday evening at 6:30pm~

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church. Imagine what it was like for the disciples when Jesus suddenly shone in glory! With eyes of faith, may we see and worship him here.

This Week at GRACE

Today: 10:00 am: Sunday School
10:00 am: Women's Bible Study
10:00 am: Church Council retreat
Wed: 6:30 pm: Ash Wednesday Worship (Holy Communion)
7:00 pm: Luther League
7:00 pm: Choir
Sun: 9:00 am: Worship (Holy Communion)
10:00 am: Sunday School

Thank you to the following people for helping with our Worship service this morning: ushers Derik & Stacey Hazen, reader Denny Johnson, greeters Trent & Kortnei VanRavenswaay and family, and A/V assistant Anna Reiffenberger.

Attendance 2/16/2020: 110

This week's offering total was \$1,423.00. This includes Sunday's and Wednesday's offerings, and direct EFT through First Savings Bank. We exceeded our weekly offering goal of \$2,900 which helps to ensure that all of our bills and salaries are paid timely!!

Announcements:

Please submit all March newsletter articles to the church office by this Tuesday, February 25. Thank you!



Updates are being made to our military section of the bulletin board. Current and past members of the military and their photos are requested so the bulletin board can be updated. Please submit to the church office. Thank you!



Every Wednesday during Lent, supper will once again be served before Worship at Grace. Each week, volunteers from the congregation will put on their "chef's hats" and will plan, prepare, and serve a meal. Lenten Suppers will be served every Wednesday during Lent from 5:30-6:15 pm beginning March 4. If you would like to help serve, please sign up on the bulletin board.

