

What Goes Up

The law of gravity dictates that whatever goes up must come down. Even with its dazzling mountaintop revelation, the transfiguration story quickly reminds us that if Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, then not even God's beloved can escape death's inevitable pull. Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up the mountain, but very soon they will be on their way down again. Suddenly, Jesus is gloriously transformed before the three disciples; then, just as suddenly, Jesus speaks of his impending death.

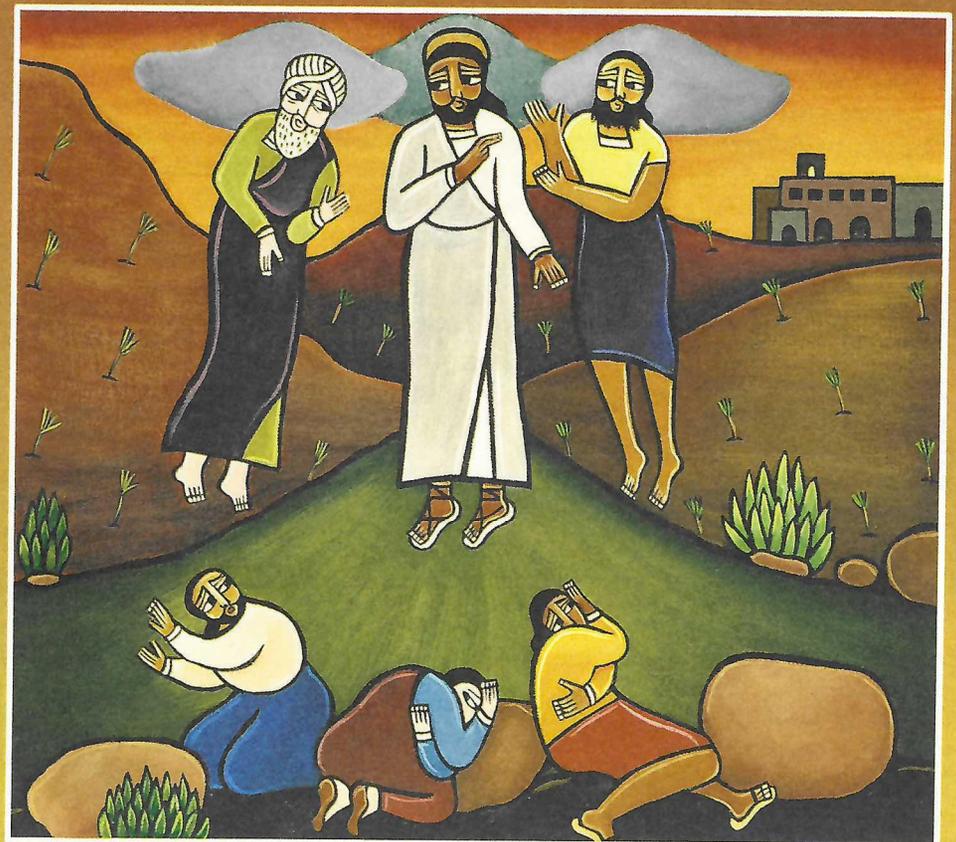
The transfiguration is a story of both fulfillment and foretaste. The appearance of Moses and Elijah reminds us of Jesus' promise to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, during his sermon on another mountain (Matthew 5:17). The startling turn toward talk of his suffering and death gives us a foretaste of the "mountain" at Golgotha he has yet to climb.

For the church, coming down the Mount of Transfiguration leads directly into the season of Lent and a journey that draws out more fully for us the implications of baptism. For Jesus, his baptism by John at the Jordan was just the start of a journey to be fulfilled in all the ups and downs to come. This is how transformation tends to happen—not when we insist on playing it safe, but when we dare to enter more fully into life as it is. So, too, our baptism can be fulfilled only in the light of our mortality. God's voice on the mountaintop calls us not simply to behold God's beloved Son but also to follow where Jesus leads.

All this, however, is not meant to bring us down. Jesus' transfiguration offers a glimpse of an even bigger picture that includes both gravity and grace. It foreshadows what is to come: death—and resurrection. This promise of new life is a bright cloud that leads the church now, as it did the ancient Israelites, through the wilderness ahead.

Jesus was *transfigured* before them

MATTHEW 17:2



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Transfiguration of Our Lord ✠ *February 15, 2026*
* Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able.
Congregation responses are printed in **bold print**.
Liturgy and hymns are in the green hymnal unless indicated.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude “Voluntary on ‘Peace Like a River’ “an African-American spiritual, arranged by David Lasky.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.

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.**

***HYMN** “Arise, Your Light Has Come!” WOV (Blue) P. 652

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** Spoken in unison.
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** “Praise to the Father”
Praise to the Father for his loving kindness, Tenderly caring for his erring children; Praise him, all angels; praise him in the Heaven; Praise to the Father!

Prayer Corner

Linda Kiefer; Dave Schreiner; David Merwine; Aaron Kiefer; Judy Barton.
Sympathy for the family and friends of Pastor David Kistler and wife, Dolores Kistler; Rodger Schreiner; Joan Snyder.

Today’s Leaders

Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Lector, Scott Deiter Organist,
Harold Morgan Counter, Sue & Mike Deiter Head Usher,
Mike Deiter Ushers, Rodney Troutman, Ben Wetzel, Jason Wolfgang Greeters, Mike & Sue Deiter

Bulletin – No sponsors.

Flowers – In honor of Donna Horn for her many years of service by Worship & Music Committee.

Attendance: 42 (2/8/2026)

Offering, February 8, 2026 – Current Exp.:	\$1,787.00
Other Offering:	\$65.00
Total:	\$1,852.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Volunteers, Ash Wednesday, 2/18/2026

12:00 PM - Service, Pastor Diefenderfer Lector, TBD Lay Assistant, TBD Counter, TBD Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, TBD

7:00 PM Service - Service, Pastor Diefenderfer Lector, Damaris Merwine Lay Assistant, Melody Schwartz Counter, Janet & Ron Radel Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Rodney Troutman, Ed Tietsworth.

Volunteers the Week of 2/22/2026 - Service, Rachel and Jim Hepler Lector, Lisa Maurer Counter, Christy Leiter & Melody Schwartz Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Michael Allvord, Scott Allvord, Rick Herring Greeters, Cindy & Rick Herring and Joan Smith.

FRIEDENS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church e-mail: friedenslutheran4@gmail.com

Designated Pastor: Pastor Lee A. Diefenderfer, 1295 Red Dale Road,
Orwigsburg, PA 17961, 610-858-4136

Council President: Ed Teitsworth, (570) 292-1061

Worship time – 10:30 AM

In the name of Jesus Christ, we strive to serve all people in our community and world. We extend a warm welcome to all visitors who are worshipping with us today. Please sign the guest register in the narthex and complete a visitor's pew card, placing it in the offering plate.

Transfiguration of Our Lord ✠ February 15, 2026

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.



Calendar

Today's Service, Pastor Barry Spatz.

February 18, Ash Wednesday, Pastor Lee Diefenderfer. Services, Noon & 7:00 PM.

February 22, Rachel & Jim Hepler.

March 1, Pastor Barry Spatz with Holy Communion.

March 8, Russ Sowers.

Announcements

- 3/21/2025 – Tentative date, Spring Bazaar, 9 – 11 AM.
- 4/29/2026 – Tentative date for Mr. Sticky sale.

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. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: 2

¹Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

²Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against the Lord's anointed?

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

⁴God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills with terror.

⁶"As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."

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

⁸Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.

⁹You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹Submit to the Lord with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

¹²lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in 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." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ First 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. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.

³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ 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." ⁵ 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!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ 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." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S AND CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE, Pastor Barry Spatz

HYMN "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord". WOV (Blue)
P. 779

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by

the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS** Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Let All Things Now Living" a Welsh melody, arranged by Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

***SENDING HYMN** "Lift High the Cross." P. 377

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Postlude "Allegro maestoso with 'Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing'" by G. F. Handel and from the *Repository of Music, Part Second*, arranged by Jeff Perks.