



**"Let us go on to the  
neighboring towns,  
so that I may proclaim the  
message there also;  
for that is what I came  
out to do."**

**Mark 1:38, NRSV**

## **THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

February 4, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH** Thornville, Ohio

### **VISITORS**

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We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are with us.

### **OUR WORSHIP**

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Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. We respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

### **PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

### **PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION**

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*We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen*

## ORDER FOR WORSHIP - BLUE BOOK SETTING 5

*Watchword: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. – Psalm 147:5 ESV*

PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

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### *Confession and Absolution*

#### INVOCATION

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*The people stand.*

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

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P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.*

P: Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### ABSOLUTION

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God has mercy on you, forgives you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

*The people stand.*

### *Gathering*

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Green Book 543

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*Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center isle at this time.*

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE

C=all voices; I=female voices; II=male voices

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**I** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we  
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

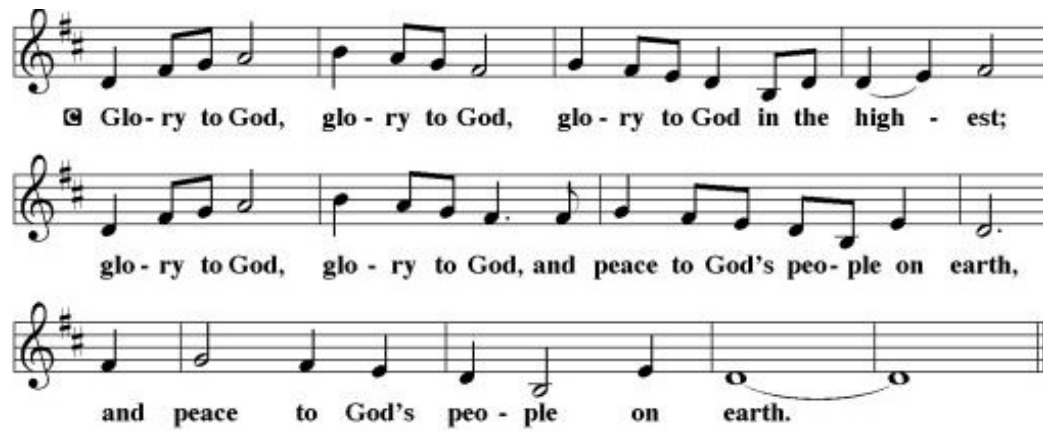
**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**III** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**I** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
**II** you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*



*The Liturgy of the Word*

**THE FIRST LESSON**

*Isaiah 40:21-31*

L: A reading from Isaiah.

*People need to be reminded of the renewing power of God even though it has been with the world from the beginning.*

<sup>21</sup>Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like

grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY**

*Psalms 147:1-11, 20c*

*The verses chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.*



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!\*  
 How pleasant it is to honor | him with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The Lord re- | builds Jerusalem;\* he gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>He heals the | brokenhearted\* and binds | up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**He counts the number | of the stars\* and calls them all | by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our Lord and might- | y in power;\* there is no limit | to his wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The Lord lifts | up the lowly,\* but casts the wicked | to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the Lord | with thanksgiving;\* make music to our God up- | on the harp.

<sup>8</sup>**He covers the heav- | ens with clouds\* and prepares rain | for the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>he makes grass to grow up- | on the mountains\* and green plants to | serve mankind.

<sup>10</sup>**He provides food for | flocks and herds\* and for the young ravens | when they cry.**

<sup>11</sup>He is not impressed by the might | of a horse;\* he has no pleasure in the strength | of a man; <sup>20c</sup>Hallelujah!

## THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*The good news of Jesus calls us to have empathy and awareness of one another.*

<sup>16</sup>For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE VERSE

*The people please stand.*

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

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

P: <sup>29</sup>And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup>And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup>And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, <sup>37</sup>and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

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*The people may be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Theresa Jacobson

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## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me*

Green Book 327

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*The people stand.*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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*After each petition: A: Hear us, O God; C: your mercy is great.*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



## The Liturgy of Holy Communion

### THE PEACE

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P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

### OFFERING

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*Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Quiet music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.*

*Grace Notes Handbells (10:30 only): "To the Glory of God"*

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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*The people stand.*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. Merciful God,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### THE PREFACE

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P: It is indeed right .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### THE SANCTUS

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en 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

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P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: 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

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P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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.**

## THE FRACTION

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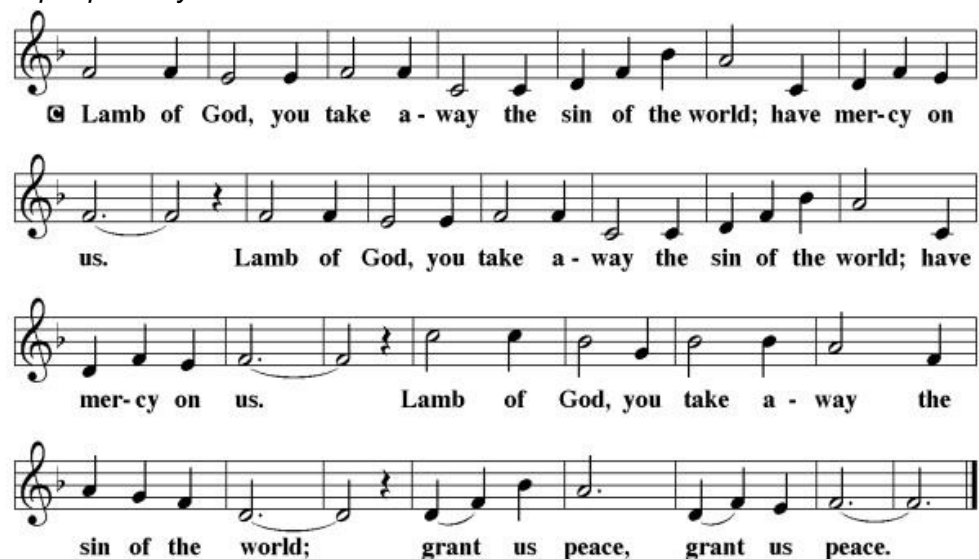
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C: Happy are those who take refuge in him!**

## LAMB OF GOD

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*The people may be seated.*



☞ 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, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

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*Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.*

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

*Hymns during distribution: Blue Book 754, 701, 702*

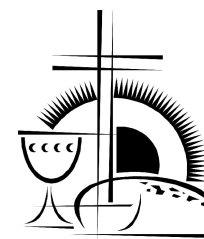
## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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*The people please stand.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**





## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



## Sending

### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### SENDING HYMN

*O Worship the King*

Green Book 548

### THE POSTLUDE

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*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*

### PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

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*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen*

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



**COMMEMORATIONS:**

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As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

Feb. 5 The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION (FEBRUARY 11)**

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2 Kings 2:1-12

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Psalms 50:1-6

Mark 9:2-9