

**March 2, 2025, TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**  
**Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church**

**PRELUDE:** Jan Ellingson (Osthus.Reynolds)

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** From Psalm 99

PASTOR: The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble;  
ALL: He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.  
PASTOR: Great is the LORD in Zion;  
ALL: He is exalted over all the nations.  
PASTOR: Let them praise your great and awesome name—  
ALL: He is holy.  
PASTOR: Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain,  
ALL: For the LORD our God is holy.

**HYMN #177 “Beautiful Savior”**

**CONFESSION OF SIN: Psalm 51:1-7 Have mercy on me. O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

**Hymn #349 “We Are the Church”**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON:**

**Reader: Toby Johnson**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 34:4-8 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." 5 And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had**

*said. 6 He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. 7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. 8 The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.*

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 9:28-31 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, 31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.**

**READER: Here ends the reading of God’s Word.**

**CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of the Father, And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen**

**GLORIA PATRI: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)**  
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER FOR OFFERING**

## PRAISE SONGS PICKED BY JAN

**SERMON TITLE: “GOD’S HOUSE” Hebrews 3:1-6;**  
**Pastor Tom Olson; March 2, 2025** *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

**BUILDER:** God is a creator and a builder. He must have had a wonderful time planning and creating the universe. Scientists will have fun in heaven asking God to answer their questions that they could not figure out.

**MANSIONS:** In John 14 we also find out that God is building homes for us in heaven. Those homes will be exactly what our hearts have desired but we never could have in this life. Don’t doubt it. *Jesus said, “If it were not so, I would have told you!”* He can’t lie.

**SPIRITUAL:** In today’s text we are reminded that God is also building a spiritual house to dwell in. It is His church. It is not a religious denomination. The pope is not the head. It is all the people in the world that belong to God. Jesus is the head. All believers are priests. There is no priest class. That is man-made nonsense. Any believer can preach, pray, baptize, serve communion and minister with their spiritual gifts. That is why the house church movement is growing. It is exciting to be a part of what God is building. The message today is “GOD’S HOUSE,” from Hebrews 3:1-6...

**I. MOSES: FAITHFUL SERVANT IN GOD’S HOUSE**  
*Hebrews 3:1-2 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. 2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.*

**FOCUS:** In these verses the writer to the Hebrews tells us to focus on Jesus, the faithful APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST.

**EXAMPLE:** He then gives us an earthly example to consider. He equates MOSES to FAITHFULNESS in God’s house. Moses was not perfect, like Jesus, but He was faithful. Moses and God had intimate fellowship “face to face.” They were close together. Moses was so close to God that his face radiated with light after being in God’s presence. It was so bright that he had to cover it.

**PASSION:** Moses was very human, he made some big mistakes. The Bible doesn’t cover that up. We are encouraged to see that Moses and David and others were not perfect. But they had something special. They had a real heart for God. They had a burning desire to be near God. They wanted to obey God. They were faithful examples for us.

*Psalm 27:4 One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*

**REFLECTION:** I have made many mistakes but something inside of me wants to get close to God. Something inside of me wants to do God’s will. Something inside of me also fights God’s will. It was a battle for Moses and it is a battle for me. As I get old and finish off my life, I want to be able to look back and say that I was a FAITHFUL SERVANT IN GOD’S HOUSE. I want to feel that I helped build up the body of Christ as best as I could.

EXODUS: I have a friend who has been a very good pastor. He reads a lot of biographies of great Christians, many great missionaries. Those biographies inspire his life. Maybe we all could use some time to go back to the book of Exodus and read about the life of Moses and imitate his passion for the Lord. MOSES WAS A FAITHFUL SERVANT IN GOD'S HOUSE. Secondly...

## II. JESUS: FAITHFUL SON OVER GOD'S HOUSE

*Hebrews 3:3-6a Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. 4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. 5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house.*

This paragraph has a rich meaning if we examine the nouns, verbs and prepositions:

- GOD IS the builder OF the house.
- MOSES WAS a faithful servant IN God's house.
- CHRIST IS a faithful Son OVER God's house.

GOD built the house, Moses served IN the house and JESUS CHRIST rules OVER the house. It is absolutely vital that we remind ourselves who is in charge.

STRESS: When I try to figure out how what our church needs to do to succeed, I get all stressed out. Should we advertise? Should we go door to door and invite people? Should we put up flags at the ends of our driveway that say "Welcome?" Should we start another program? Perhaps some of you are stressed out because you are trying to solve your own problems.

SEEK: Then I realize, it is not my job to figure out what we should do. I am not the boss. Jesus Christ is OVER the church. Our job is to find out what Jesus wants us to do and to do that faithfully. Jesus told us to seek him and that He will build His church.

*Matthew 6:33-34 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

*Matt 16:18 ...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

SURRENDER: Jesus is OVER God's house. Jesus is the Lord. The only peace and rest we will find is in surrendering to the will of God, no matter what that will is. I have told you before that one of the most profound book titles I have read is this "THE POWER OF A SURRENDERED LIFE." When I surrender to the Lord, peace and rest returns to my soul.

## III. YOU AND ME: GOD'S HOUSE

*Hebrews 3:6b And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.*

Now we know that

- MOSES WAS FAITHFUL IN GOD'S HOUSE.
- JESUS IS THE FAITHFUL SON OVER GOD'S HOUSE
- And finally: YOU AND ME-WE ARE GOD'S HOUSE

The children's song put it so well: *I am the church, you are the church... WE ARE HIS HOUSE* We are the dwelling place of God.

Jesus puts it this way in *John 14:16&17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

Revelation 3:20 says: *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

COMMUNION: God is building a house out of people who are indwelt with His Holy Spirit. When we partake of Holy Communion, he comes into us in yet another way, in the bread and wine. It is a sacred experience meant for believers who are old enough to discern the body of Christ. Communion is amazing because the BODY OF CHRIST (God's church) receives the BODY OF CHRIST in the elements. It is not meant to be understood but it is meant to be received by faith. Communion strengthens our assurance that our sins are forgiven, paid in full by the blood of the Lamb of God. Even the children who do not yet receive communion can look at the bread and grape juice and see Jesus by faith.

ANTICIPATION: One day, when we die or when Jesus returns, we will see the Lord in His fulness. We will be able to touch Him. We will be able to converse with him in a normal way. Holy Communion is also a reminder that He is coming back at the right time. Maybe it will be soon. We pray for the hastening of that great day when all wars, death, sickness, sorrow and pain will be gone forever and we will

dwell with God. Until then, we will continue to spread the good news about our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ. *May the peace of God that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds through faith in Messiah Jesus. Amen*

### **HYMN #177 "Beautiful Savior"**

**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, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

### **HOLY COMMUNION (Dave Fischer prep and help)**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** *May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever-- Grant you peace, Perfect peace, Strength in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see His face, Feel His grace forever. May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.*

### **POSTLUDE: Jan Ellingson**