

**Making Faith Connections - Cross of Hope Small Group Ministry**  
**February 15, 2026**  
**Transfiguration of our Lord - Last Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Walk in the Light – God’s beloved**

**Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you’ve encountered God this week.***

**Prayer**            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. 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. (ELW p26)

**Introduction:** 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. (from Sundays and Seasons)

**Discussion Questions:**

*Read again Matthew 17:1-9*

- What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
- What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
- What does this gospel tell us about Jesus?
- How does this story reveal Christ as God’s beloved?
- What images from the story are familiar from other stories we’ve heard this season?
  - What is the significance of those images all coming together in this story?
- How does this story point beyond itself?
- Why is Jesus’ identity as God’s beloved an important part of his ministry?
  - How do we find our identity as God’s beloved through Jesus as we walk in the light of Christ?

*Read again Exodus 24:12-18*

- What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
- What does this reading reveal about God?
- How does this story inform our faithful living walking in the light of God’s love?

*Read again 2 Peter 1: 16-21*

- What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
- Why is the Holy Spirit important to walking in the light of Christ?

*Read and reflect on Psalm 99 if you’d like.*

**Prayer Requests and Prayer**

**Remember Ash Wednesday this week!**