



Sunday, February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of Our Lord / Last Sunday of Epiphany

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

GATHERING

WELCOME

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will not overcome it.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.

OPENING SONG ELW 838 vs. 1,3 *Beautiful Savior*

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

GREETING

Beloved of God, called to be saints; grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ELW 715 Christ Be Our Light (*chorus twice*)

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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PRAAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts.

Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away

from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Music: Jesus Loves Me – ELW #595

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Music: Lord, Listen to your Children Praying – ELW #752

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY ELW #318 (tune of 490) vs.1,3 Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever dear to choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.

3 Alleluia cannot always
be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions
make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming
when our tears for sin shall flow.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

(Please stand as you are able)

Let us confess our faith in the words of the

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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**

(Please stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for any who are sick and suffering. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially for those who celebrate their lives and birth this week:

Norie Allen

Virginia Anderson

Hunter Peleaux

LoGene Test

enrich them with a sense of joy and grace for yet another year. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Save us from ourselves, from racism in all its hidden forms, from hollow words without actions, forgive us, renew us, call us to action. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

For those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses, grant strength and grace. We pray for doctors, nurses, technicians, researchers and all who work toward treatments and cures. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

For police officers and firefighters, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

For your people in the midst of war, civil unrest, or conflict, grant protection, strength and hope for a better tomorrow. Bring peace and an end to the conflict.

For Vicar Tom Hilmich as he interns at St. Luke's and The Neighborhood this year, may your Spirit surround him with all that is needful for a year of learning, creativity, new relationships and joy. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace ...

(Please be seated)

MEAL

OFFERING

The Worship/Communion Registration Card may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.

Thank you for your support of our ministry.

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY ELW #186 *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Text: Lutheran Book of Worship

THE LORD'S SUPPER: Words of Institution

Grace at the table: The 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

(Please stand as you are able)

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW #207 *Thankful Hearts and Voices*

Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice
and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-198

SENDING

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

may the Lord smile upon you and be gracious to you,
may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. + Amen.

SENDING SONG ELW 671 vs. 1 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Refrain Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord and let there be light!

- 1 Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me; *Refrain*

FAREWELL TO THE ALLELUIA

We say "farewell to the alleluias" today in anticipation of the beginning of Lent next week. The omission of alleluia during Lent goes back to at least the fifth century. This is a liturgical fast corresponding to the penitential character of the season. The exclamation of joyous praise will not be spoken/sung again until Easter.

(Sing, WOV 671 refrain:)

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord; alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Enclose and seal up the word,

Alleluia

Let it remain in the secret of your heart,

Alleluia

until the appointed time. You shall say it with great joy when that day comes.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Light and peace are yours through Jesus Christ. May your light so shine before others, that they see your works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THE DAY

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOR

February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

The rainbow, sign of God's covenant

Psalm 25:1-10

Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

1 Peter 3:18-22

Saved through water

Mark 1:9-15

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 11, 2024

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Just Listen

There are transfiguration moments in everyday life that can absolutely stop us in our tracks with the glory of Christ's presence: The smell of a new baby. Flowering trees blooming in the spring. The embrace of a friend when we need them most. Voices raised in cries for justice. The bravery of difficult conversations. The sacred minutes just before death. It may not be Jesus in dazzling clothes or a visit from the ancestors on a mountaintop, but by God's grace, we perceive the love of Christ shining brightly in these ordinary, yet holy, moments.

When they happen to us, what are we to do? It can be difficult, when in the presence of the divine, to know quite what to say. Peter, grasping at straws, offered to make three dwellings. You can't blame him—we all make weird choices when we are terrified! But a voice came from heaven: "Listen." It is not necessary to do or say anything. This moment is simply a gift. Our job is only to listen to Jesus.

Have you ever spent time just listening? Maybe outdoors, on a hike or in a park—listening to the sounds of creation. Or during a quiet moment in worship—the sound of cars driving by outside, or your neighbor breathing, or your own heart beating. Perhaps you have listened compassionately to a loved one who didn't need advice but just needed to be heard.

As people accustomed to *doing*, we can find it challenging to just listen. We may have learned that it is important for us to have something to say, something to offer, something to provide. But the good news of grace is that Christ's love has come to us even before we could do anything. That's why we baptize even helpless infants. That's why, when we come to communion, we do so with hands outstretched and empty, ready to receive: "This is the body of Christ." All we can do is listen . . . and say, "Amen."

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Upcoming Commemorations

**Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs
Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

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