

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 11, 2024

10:15 am

Prelude

Welcome

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.

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #838 "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.**
- 2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**
- 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.**

4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

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Prayer 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.

Readings and Psalm

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.

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him! *Alleluia.* (Luke 9:35)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Mark, beginning with the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #315 "How Good, Lord, to be Here"

- 1. How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night; your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.**
- 2. How good, Lord to be here, your beauty to behold where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.**
- 3. Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be, we hail your body glorified and our redemption see.**
- 4. Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come; we long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.**
- 5. How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain; but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.**

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Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

Apostle's Creed

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

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

Peace

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

Offering

Offering Hymn: ELW #686 "We Give Thee I Own" 1st verse

- 1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

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Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.**

Invitation to Communion

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymn: ELW #715 "Christ, Be Our Light"

**1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

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

**2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain:***

3. **Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Refrain:**
4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for worth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. Refrain:**
5. **Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. Refrain:**

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Post-communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✚ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #866 "We Are Marching in the Light"

1. **We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God, We are marching - we are marching in the light of God. We are marching -**
2. **We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God, We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing - we are dancing in the light of God. We are dancing -**
3. **We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God. We are praying in the light of God, we are praying - we are praying in the light of God. We are praying -**
4. **We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God, We are singing in the light of God, we are singing - we are singing in the light of God. We are singing -**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements:

- **Today** - Fund Raiser for Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
- **Lenten Meal** – February 14, 2024. Sponsored by Church Council @5:30 pm
- **Ash Wednesday Worship** service @ 6:30 pm
- **February 18, 2024** – Minnesota River Conference annual meeting @ Grace Lutheran, Waseca, MN.
- **No Bible Study sessions on Wednesday mornings during the Lenten season.**

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