

Sunday, February 14, 2021
Transfiguration of Our Lord

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Beautiful Savior"
Sharon Gray, piano

arr. Jerry Ray

APOSTLES' CREED – Jeff Langdon

☒ 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!

WELCOMING SONG

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

ELW 553

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

GREETING

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

G **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Glory Be to God in Heaven”

pg. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav’n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P *Almighty God,*

G **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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

Ruth Duck

Rev. Keith & Deb Hohly

FIRST READING – Karri Chladek, 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 Elisha 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 Elisha 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 drivers!” But when Elisha could no longer see Elijah, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reflection

This text tells the story of the end of Elijah’s life on earth. Who was Elijah with at that time? (verse 1) Does Elijah want him to stay with him? (verse 2) What is Elisha’s response? Who joins them? (verse 3) What do they tell Elisha? What was Elisha’s response? Then where did they go? (verse 4) Again, what does Elijah tell Elisha? Again, what is Elisha’s response? Who joins them then? (verse 5) How does Elisha respond to them? Then where do they go? (verse 6) Again, how does Elisha respond to Elijah’s command? Who then joins them? (verse 7) How do they cross the Jordan River? (verse 8) Then Elijah says something different from “Go away.” What does he say? (verse 9) What does Elisha ask for? What is Elijah’s answer? (verse 10) What happens to Elijah then? (verse 11) Did Elisha see him go? (verse 12) Why did Elisha call Elijah “Father”? Note that tearing clothing is a sign of mourning. Elisha’s “going” reminds us of Moses’ death, which no person witnessed. (See Deuteronomy 34:1-8) Remember this text when we get to the Gospel reading!

Psalm 50:1-6— read together with Bruce Taylor

- ¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.
- ²Out 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.
- ⁴God 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.”
“The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.

Reflection

Why is God called “the mighty one”? (verse 1) What does God speak? How does the psalmist “see” God? (verse 2) What does the psalmist describe when God comes? (verse 3) Why does God come in this way? What will happen? (verse 4) What does God say? (verse 5) How do the heavens respond to this? (verse 6) This is the God who called Elijah and Moses home, and who judged them as they left the earth.

SECOND READING – Pam Farrell, 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.

Reflection

In these verses, Paul is responding to the charge of those who questioned his apostleship in the church in Corinth. They charged that he made the gospel hard to understand. Why does Paul say that they can’t understand it? (verses 3-4) In earlier verses (see 1 Corinthians 3:12-18), Paul referred to those whose minds and hearts were blinded by their faith in the law of Moses so they that couldn’t see the glory of God in Jesus. How is this against what Paul is saying? Who does Paul proclaim? (verse 5) Who is Paul, in this proclamation, in relation to the congregation in Corinth? How does Paul (and how do we) know God’s glory? (verse 6)

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

pg. 205

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior:
open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing
for the good news that you bring.**

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, Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Reflection

Where does Jesus go in this text? (verse 2) Who does he take with him? What happens there? (verses 2-3) Do you think this might be one fulfillment of Jesus’ promise that some of them will see the kingdom of God come with power? (see Mark 9:1) Who then appears with Jesus? (verse 4) Have you ever been so excited or overwhelmed that, even though there are no words for it, you can’t stop talking? Who is like that in this text? (verses 5-6) What does he want to do? What do they then hear? (verse 7) Who did they see after the voice? (verse 8) What does Jesus tell the disciples? (verse 9) — Once again, “don’t tell anyone!” Why? This text is in a way a “pivot” in the Gospel of Mark, and in the story of Jesus’ life on earth. It’s also a pivot in our time from Christmas and Epiphany to Lent and Easter. What did Jesus tell them after Peter was so adamant that Jesus the Messiah could not possibly suffer and die? (see Mark 8:27-38) Do you think he was proving to them that he was who he said he was (and who God said he was)? Or was he giving them courage and strength for what was to come next? It’s not surprising that Peter wanted to just stay up on the mountain, is it? If any of us had known what was coming this last year, might we not have said, “let’s not do that! Let’s just stay here”? How does this story of Jesus’ glory help us to prepare for Lent, and whatever this Lent will bring?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Liz Jonas

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

“How Good, Lord, to Be Here!”

ELW 315

**How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.**

**How good, Lord, to be here!
your beauty to behold
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.**

**Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified
and our redemption see.**

**Before we taste of death,
we see your kingdom come;
we long to hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home.**

**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.**

PRAYER SONG

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

Taize

Phil & Nancy Lewis

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Jim & Juel Pierce

We remember in our prayers

*Marlene Hebb, Floreen Johnson, Dave Newman, Chris and Andy Wilson (friends of Sharon Gray),
Dave Schmidt, Felicia Rush Blanc, Sarah Pierce, Rick & Cyndi Zebelean (friends of Sharmyn Thompson),
Sylvia Rush (grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Myrene Bunge, Pamma Williams, Lynn Ann Flora
(friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Reed Nelson, Dorothy Masteller,
Dee Rasmussen*

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in our stewardship of God’s creation, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all who suffer this day that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you

those in our faith community needing your care: Floreen, Dave, Chris and Andy , Dave, Felicia, Sarah, Rick & Cyndi, Sylvia, Myrene, Pamma, Lynn Ann, Keira, Reed, Dorothy, Dee, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.*

G Amen!

P *Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Holy God,*

G **you search us and know us.**

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.**

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,**

you know them;

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen!

P *How vast is God's grace!*

*Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.*

Indeed, we are forgiven.

*In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.*

G **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

pg. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,**

hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

☞ *Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.*

*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.*

*Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.*

*Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.*

☞ **Amen!**

LORD'S PRAYER

☞ **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,**

and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P *Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

P *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

A Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P *Christ Jesus,*

A **at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey.**

**Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and
serve others in your name. Amen!**

BENEDICTION

P *God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter \mp keep you in peace.*

A Amen!

SENDING SONG

“He Is Exalted”

Twila Paris

He is exalted
The King is exalted on high
I will praise Him
He is exalted forever exalted
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord
Forever His truth shall reign
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name
He is exalted
The King is exalted on high

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

P *Go in peace and serve our Lord.*

A Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”
Sharon Gray, organ

arr. Austin Lovelace

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

Instruments: Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,
Carol Bunge, Misty Coyle, Roger Lenander, and Barb Aubrey

Reflections on Today’s Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” ELW #553 | Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Text and Tune: Public Domain

“How Good, Lord, to Be Here!” ELW# 315 | Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.
Text and Tune: Public Domain

“He Is Exalted” | CCLI Song # 17827 | Twila Paris
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