

Sunday, February 11, 2018  
Transfiguration of Our Lord

## INTRODUCTION

*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 son. 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.*

**PRELUDE**

***"Simple Gifts"***

arr. Gilbert Martin

**\*GATHERING SONG**

***"Days of Elijah"***

**These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And though these are days  
Of great trials  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
Still we are the voice  
In the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord**

**Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes**

**And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant David  
Rebuilding a temple of praise  
And these are the days of the harvest  
The fields are as white in the world**

And we are the labourers  
In Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes

There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah (hey)

Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes

**\*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.

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

***"Kyrie Eleison"***

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Kyrie eleison,  
on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.  
For peace in the world,  
for the health of the church,  
for the unity of all;  
for this holy house,  
for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord,  
let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison,  
on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.  
That we may live out  
your impassioned response  
to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out  
truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord,  
let us pray to the Lord**

**Kyrie eleison,  
on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.  
For peace in our hearts,  
for peace in our homes,  
for friends and family;  
for life and for love,  
for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord,  
let us pray to the Lord**

**Kyrie eleison,  
on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.  
For your Spirit to guide;  
that you center our lives  
in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls  
with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord,  
let us pray to the Lord**

**Kyrie eleison,  
on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

## \*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!**

**ANTHEM**

*“Beautiful Savior”*

Lloyd Larsen

Chancel Choir

## 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah 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. <sup>3</sup>The 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.”

<sup>4</sup>Elijah 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. <sup>5</sup>The 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.”

<sup>6</sup>Then 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. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.

<sup>9</sup>When 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.” <sup>10</sup>He 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.” <sup>11</sup>As 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. <sup>12</sup>Elisha 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.

## **Reflection**

*There are a lot of strange stories in the Bible; I think this is one of the strangest. We are told at the beginning of the story what will happen at the end. What is it? (verse 1) Who accompanies*

*Elijah on his final journey? What does Elijah continue to urge Elisha to do? (verses 2, 4, 6) What does Elisha do in each case? Who else tells Elisha what will happen? (verses 3 and 5) They also seem to be urging Elisha to leave Elijah? How do Elijah and Elisha cross the Jordan River? (verse 8) This is a reminder of how the Israelites entered the Promised Land. (See Joshua 3) Perhaps in verse 9 we see why Elisha was so determined to stay with Elijah. What does Elisha ask of Elijah? (verse 9) How does Elijah respond? (verse 10) What happens next? (verses 11-12) What do you think this means? See what happens next (see verses 13-14) What does this whole story tell us about Elijah and Elisha? What is their work for the Lord?*

### **PSALM 50:1-6**

- <sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the | LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.
- <sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,  
God shines | forth in glory.**
- <sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will | not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a | raging storm.
- <sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth | from above  
to witness the judgment | of the people.**
- <sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my | loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed | it with sacrifice.”
- <sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness | of God’s cause,  
for it is God | who is judge.**

### **Reflection**

*This seems an appropriate psalm to read after the story of Elijah and Elisha. Who is God the Lord? What times in your life might this seem like a good psalm to know?*

### **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 out of darkness at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In 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. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup>For 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**

*This text seems to reflect the psalm, which seems to reflect the first reading. In what ways do you experience or see that it is hard for us (and others) to see the light of the gospel? Who is Christ? (verse 4) Who are the apostles? (verse 5) Who then are we, as heirs of the apostles?*

*How do we have the strength and courage to both live and proclaim the gospel? (verse 6) How have you experienced the light of Christ shining in your heart? Why do we have this gift?*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**\*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.*

<sup>2</sup>Six 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, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then 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." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As 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.

**Reflection**

*Where does this story take place? (verse 2) What does transfigured mean? (verses 2-3) This reminds me of both the psalm and the reading from 2 Corinthians. What does it mean that Jesus shines with the light of God? Who appears with Jesus on the mountain? (verse 4) What does Peter say? (verses 5-6) Have you ever been so overwhelmed that you felt like you had to say something but didn't know what to say? Mostly in those cases you either say nothing (like James and John) or speak nonsense (like Peter). What did the voice say? (verse 7) Where have we heard that voice before, in Mark's gospel? (see Mark 1:9-11) What are we who are disciples commanded to do? (verse 7) After the voice, what happens? What did Jesus tell Peter, James and John about what they had seen? (verse 9) Do you think they got it? (for example, see Mark 9:30-37) Why do you think they weren't suppose to talk about what they had seen? (see Mark 9:30-37, and Mark 9:10) What does the Transfiguration mean to you? Why do you think we read this Gospel right before we enter Lent?*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

**"Listen To Him...If You Dare"**

Rev. Roger Lenander

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Come to the Mountain”*

Jesus took Peter, James, and John  
up to the mountain to be alone.  
While they were watching Jesus was changed;  
and they saw Moses face to face.

*Refrain*

Come to the mountain to see the light.  
Come to the mountain to hear God’s word.  
Go to the valley, it is your home.  
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.

“This is my Son!” said a voice from the cloud.  
“Listen to him and do what he says!”  
Soon as it came that vision was gone,  
and they saw Jesus standing alone. *Refrain*

We will be changed like Jesus our Lord,  
and live with him in heaven above.  
But while we live on this earthly home,  
our work as servants never is done. *Refrain*

**\*APOSTLES’ 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!

**\*PRAYER SONG**

***“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”***

Turn you eyes upon Jesus,  
look full in His wonderful face;  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of His glory and grace.

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

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

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, seas and skies, and creatures seen and unseen, that all may be guided by your Holy Spirit to be stewards of our earth, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For firefighters and police officers, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and corporate executives, and leaders of governments, that through their insight and patience, peace and justice prevail throughout the world, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially the friends and family of Eric Burns, Jim, Roxanna, Mary Anna, Kay, and Linda and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds), that as Christ was transfigured on the mountaintop, sickness will be turned into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into assurance, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For companions who accompany us on our journeys through life, for this community of faith that supports us, and for guidance during difficult times, that we see the glory of God revealed around 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 days, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**C** **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

*“All Hail King Jesus!”*

All hail King Jesus!  
All hail Emmanuel,  
King of kings, Lord of lords,  
bright Morning Star.  
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises;  
and I'll reign with you throughout eternity.

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*“Holy Ground”*

We are standing  
on holy ground,  
and I know that there  
are angels all around.  
Let us praise Jesus now.  
We are standing in his presence  
on holy ground.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** *Merciful God,*

**C** receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

**\*DIALOGUE**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

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

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

**C** **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;  
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love,*

*that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.  
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:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**We are standing on holy ground  
And I know that there  
Are angels all around  
Let us praise Jesus now  
We are standing in His presence  
On holy ground**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *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.*

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**C** **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** *We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.*

**\*BLESSING**

**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**G** **Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** *O Morning Star, fair and bright,*

**G** **you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *The God of glory dwell in you richly,  
name you beloved,  
and shine brightly on your path;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the  $\text{✠}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.*

**G** **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*“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 love and mercy;  
send forth your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!**

**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***

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story  
Shine on me  
shine on me *Refrain***