

Sunday, February 26, 2017  
Transfiguration Sunday

## **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 the mount of transfiguration 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. We will 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.

## **PRELUDE**

***"Beautiful Savior"***

David Cherwien

## **\*GATHERING SONG**

***"Beautiful Savior"***

**ELW 838**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

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

## \*GREETING

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

☞ **And also with you**

## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

**Gloria, Gloria, Gloria,  
glory to God on high!  
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria,  
glory to God on high!  
And on earth peace to God's people.  
Glory to God.  
And on earth peace to God's people.  
Glory to God.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ *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!**

## ANTHEM

**"Alleluia"**  
Chancel Choir

Ed Harris

## FIRST READING

**Exodus 24:12-18**

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the Lord" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

### **Reflection**

*What happens to Moses in this text? Who is with him? (verses 12-13) What does the glory of the Lord look like? (verses 15-17) How long was Moses on the mountain? (verse 18) You may notice other*

places in the Bible where something goes on for forty days and forty nights. “Forty days and forty nights” does not necessarily mean what the calendar says. It means a long time. What do you think it means that Moses was alone in the cloud for a long time? Reflect on who Moses is in the history of Israel.

## PSALM 2

- <sup>1</sup>Why are the nations | in an uproar?  
Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?
- <sup>2</sup>**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and  
the princes | plot together,  
against the LORD and against the | LORD’s anointed?**
- <sup>3</sup>“Let us break their | yoke,” they say;  
“let us cast off their | bonds from us.”
- <sup>4</sup>**God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;  
the LORD holds them | in derision.**
- <sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God | speaks to them,  
and in rage fills | them with terror.
- <sup>6</sup>“**As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king  
upon Zion, my | holy mountain.**”
- <sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,  
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I  
be- | gotten you.
- <sup>8</sup>**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations  
for | your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**
- <sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an | iron rod  
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”
- <sup>10</sup>**And now, you | kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**
- <sup>11</sup>Submit to the | LORD with fear,  
and with trembling | bow in worship;
- <sup>12</sup>**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a  
sudden | blaze of wrath.  
Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!**

### **Reflection**

*There have been many rulers in the history of earth (and probably before written history) who have thought that their word and what they want was supreme. (verses 1-3) How does God look upon those rulers? (verses 4-6) This psalm was probably written for the coronation of the king. Who is this king? (verses 6-7) What is God’s promise through this king? (verses 8-9) What gives a king or a ruler the authority to rule? (verses 10-11) Do you think this applies in a democracy as well? Why or why not?*

## SECOND READING

## 2 Peter 1:16-21

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

### **Reflection**

*What gives the apostles the authority to speak? (verse 16) Who did they see receiving God's authority? (verses 17-18) What do we say to those who proclaim, "I'm the one who can fix everything?" (verse 19) Who do we pay attention to as Christians, as to a Lamp shining in a dark place, or the morning star? (verse 19) How do we hear God's word? (verses 20-21)*

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"**

**ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

### **\*GOSPEL**

**Matthew 17:1-9**

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to his disciples in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

### **Reflection**

*This text begins "six days later." Six days later than what? (See Matthew 16:24-26) What happens "six days later"? (verses 1-2) Think back to 2 Peter 1:19. Who is the Lamp, and the Morning Star? Who appears with Jesus? (verse 3) Think back to the Exodus passage. Why do you think Moses appeared with Jesus? For the Elijah story, see 2 Kings 2. Who else is with Jesus on the mountain? (verse 1) What*

is Peter's reaction? (verse 4) What happens then? (verses 5-7) Who was left with the vision was over? (verse 8) What does Jesus tell the three disciples? (verse 9) Have you ever had a vision of Jesus that overwhelmed you? I remember once when I was in high school I dreamed that Jesus came and stood at the end of my bed as I was asleep. I don't remember that he said anything, but I do remember a feeling of great love. I believe that dream was a gift from Jesus to me. While it did not make me believe something I hadn't believed before, it sort of confirmed Jesus' love for me. I am thankful for that dream!

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

***"Transfigured—Transformed"***

Rev. Jim Pierce

**SONG OF THE DAY**

***"Listen, God Is Calling"***

**ELW 513**

*Neno lake Mungu*

***Refrain***

***(Listen,)***

**listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

***(Listen,)***

**listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

***(Jesus gave his mandate:)***

**share the good news  
*(that he came to save us)*  
and set us free. *Refrain***

***(Let none be forgotten)***

**throughout the world.  
*(In the triune name of God)*  
go and baptize. *Refrain***

***(Help us to be faithful,)***

**standing steadfast,  
*(walking in your precepts,)*  
led by your Word. *Refrain***

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

pg. 105

**☒ 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" chorus only*

**Turn your 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**

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

*A brief silence.*

God of Moses, you revealed your glory on Mount Sinai. Reveal your glory through missionaries and campus ministries. Shine your light through their acts of caring, justice, and mercy. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Eve, you create humankind in your image. Cultivate in us a passion for your good creation. Transform our daily routines so that our stewardship reveals your image. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of David, you equip shepherds to care for your people. Where leaders rule by fear, transform their hearts with compassion and mercy. Send advocates for peace. We pray for your justice in every land. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Naomi, you care for the widow. Be with all who mourn. Connect children in foster care with loving families. Protect refugees. Heal the sick and strengthen caretakers. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Elijah, you are the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: hear our prayers and grant your healing for those who may be sick or in pain. We *especially pray for Bob, Sheylin, Terry, Stephanie, Dorothy, Linda, Scott, Alva.* We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Zechariah, you invite us to worship. Teach us to sing your praise in all places and in all circumstances. Embolden us to proclaim the joy of your faithfulness with our whole being. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Lazarus, you resurrect the dead. Deepen our trust in the resurrection promise. Grant us peace as we grapple with what it means to die and live in you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

***"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***

**\*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**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,  
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God,  
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.  
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.  
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *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**

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

**COMMUNION SONG**

**ELW 471**

***"Let Us Break Bread Together"***

**Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.**

***Refrain***

**When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain***

**Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain***

**\*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  $\div$  Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.*

***G*** **Amen!**

**"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!**

**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***

**\*DISMISSAL**

- ☐** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- ☑** **Thanks be to God!**