

The Transfiguration of Our Lord As We Gather

February 11, 2018

This day ends the Epiphany season and prepares us for Lent. Jesus has been revealing His true nature through His words and actions, and on the Mount of Transfiguration three disciples see His glory revealed as transfiguring light. Moses and Elijah appear with Him, talking about His departure in Jerusalem. But our Lord then commands the disciples not to tell about the event until after Easter. Because we live after His resurrection, Paul writes in the Epistle, we recognize Jesus' true glory in going to the cross for us, for God has "shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 *Corinthians 4:6*).

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Sharing of the Peace

578 Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!



God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

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Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we often forget Your gracious presence and guiding. We are by nature sinful and unclean and, relying on ourselves, have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. By action and inaction, thoughtless words, and failure to profess the faith within us, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For Jesus' sake, forgive us, open our eyes to Your presence with us each day and especially as we gather to receive His body and blood, and lead us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, who revealed the true nature of His glory by dying for us and rising to give us new life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Mark 9:5a; 2 Corinthians 3:13, 18

P When Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, Peter said,

C “Rabbi, it is good that we are here.”

P But we were not present at that time. Moses “put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze” at the glory fading from his face.

C But now, “We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed.”

P In the present time, we see our Lord Jesus Christ coming to us in His Word proclaimed and Sacraments received. Let us hear God’s Word, respond in words of faith, and join saints and angels in singing the praises of our glorious Savior.

946 Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise



1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

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Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace.

- C** Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven;
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 2:1–12

Elijah Taken to Heaven

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please 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. ³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he said, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

⁴Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please 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 sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Please 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 sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

P Praise the Lord, all nations!

C Extol Him, all peoples!

P For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

P Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

C bring an offering, and come into His courts!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:6

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The Light of the Gospel

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only 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 what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Psalm 45:2a

P Alleluia. You are the most handsome of the sons of men;

C grace is poured upon Your lips. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2–9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.

⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

⁵And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Transfiguration

Amen.

Children’s Message

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

414 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here



1	'Tis	good,	Lord,	to	be	here!	Thy
2	'Tis	good,	Lord,	to	be	here,	Thy
3	Ful -	fill -	er	of	the	past	And
4	Be -	fore	we	taste	of	death,	We
5	'Tis	good,	Lord,	to	be	here!	Yet



glo - ry	fills	the	night;	Thy	face	and	gar - ments,	
beau - ty	to	be -	hold	Where	Mo - ses	and	E -	
hope	of	things	to	We	hail	Thy	bod - y	
see	Thy	king - dom	come;	We	long	to	hold	the
we	may	not	re - main;	But	since	Thou	bidst	us

like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.
 glo - ri - fied, And our re - demp - tion see.
 vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.
 leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

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Sermon

Offering

956 Create in Me (Create in Me)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
 a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
 from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
 and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people in their various needs.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You sent Your Son to be our Savior. Bless all who proclaim His true glory in going to the cross as the atonement for our sins. Grant that His light may shine through us here in our congregation, wherever people of faith gather around Word and Sacrament, and through Your servants everywhere in their public and private lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord over all, who has placed the world's leaders in power, give them opportunity and guidance that they may strive for peace among the nations and rededicate themselves to human liberty and justice for their citizens. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Holy Spirit, bless artists and tradespeople, farmers and ranchers, scientists and technicians; use the gifts You have given them to open our eyes to understand Your good creation and share its blessings. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, guide and protect armed forces deployed and police, fire, and first responders at home. Give them courage and compassion so that we all may live in peace and dignity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving Lord, hear the spoken and silent prayers of those unknown to us—the lonely and forgotten in society, those in broken homes, and all who need nurture, justice, and dignity. Answer them according to Your gracious will. Likewise, we pray for those near and dear to us, [*especially . . .*]. Use us to surround them with Your love, that they may know Your presence to heal and comfort. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, use the Word we have heard to strengthen the faith the Spirit has graciously placed within us. Grant us mercy as we place all these

petitions before You, knowing that Your answers are better than our prayers.
Receive them all for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

Announcements

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Farewell to Alleluia

P Today marks the end of the Epiphany season, and in a few days we begin
Lent on Ash Wednesday. It is traditional to mute our joy during Lent by not
singing Alleluias. We say our “farewell to Alleluia” as we sing the final
hymn.

417 Alleluia, Song of Gladness [Sung to tune *REGENT SQUARE* (Angels from the Realms of Glory)]

Alleluia, song of gladness,
Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem
Ever raised by choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding
Thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia, thou resoundest,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother,
All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon's sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.

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 must flow.

Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter
With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.

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Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

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