



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 14, 2021

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Eyewitness to Glory

As We Gather

There is nothing quite like being an eyewitness, giving a special perspective to share on the event. Peter writes about being on the Mount of Transfiguration as he, James, and John were privileged to have a special vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. He states: "We were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,' we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain" (2 Peter 1:16b–18). Today, through the words of Scripture, we, too, become eyewitnesses and are given a glimpse of glory in the vision of our transfigured Lord!

Organ Prelude & Welcome

Ringing of the Tower Bell

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 30:15, 18, 29

- P** For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
- C** "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."
- P** Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.
- C** For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.

P You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept,
C and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

414 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

- 1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.
- 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
Thy beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Thy messengers of old.
- 3 Fulfiller of the past
And hope of things to be,
We hail Thy body glorified
And our redemption see.
- 4 Before we taste of death,
We see Thy kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright
And make this hill our home.
- 5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since Thou bidst us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.

Confession and Absolution

P O God, our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

C Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

P We confess that we have not always brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

C Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

P We repent of all that is sinful in our lives, both that which we know and those things unknown to us that are against Your righteous laws.

C Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

P Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

C Amen.

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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

C Amen.

Celebration of the Day - St. Valentine

706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

1 Love in Christ is strong and living,
Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving.
May His will in us be done.

2 Love is patient and forbearing,
Clothed in Christ's humility,
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
Reaching out in charity.

3 Love in Christ abides forever,
Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven,
Shall endure until life's end.

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P Let us pray.
Lord of love, bless our remembering of the saints of ages past, including Your servant Valentine. Help us proclaim Your love in our day in word and deed as we look forward to the great reunion with all of the saints in Your heavenly kingdom. We pray in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 2:1-12

¹When 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Reading

Psalm 50:1-6



¹The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and sum- | mons the earth*
from the rising of the sun to its | setting.

²Out of Zion, the perfection of | beauty,*
God | shines forth.

³Our God comes; he does not keep | silence,*
 before him is a devouring fire,
 around him a mighty | tempest.
⁴**He calls to the heav- | ens above***
and to the earth, that he may judge his | people:
⁵“Gather to me my | faithful ones,*
 who made a covenant with me by | sacrifice!”
⁶**The heavens declare his | righteousness,***
for God him- | self is judge!

Epistle

2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6

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.

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.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

P Praise the LORD, all nations!
 Extol him, all peoples!

C For great is his steadfast love toward us,
 and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
 bring an offering, and come into his courts!

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

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

²After 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon “Look at the Clouds”

413 O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

- 1 O wondrous type! O vision fair
Of glory that the Church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun He glows!
- 2 With Moses and Elijah nigh
The incarnate Lord holds converse high;
And from the cloud the Holy One
Bears record to the only Son.
- 3 With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above
Who joy in God with perfect love.
- 4 And faithful hearts are raised on high
By this great vision’s mystery,
For which in joyful strains we raise
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
- △ 5 O Father, with the eternal Son
And Holy Spirit ever one,
We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace
To see Thy glory face to face.

Sermon **Mark 9:2-9**

415 Jesus on the Mountain Peak

- 1 Jesus on the mountain peak
Stands alone in glory blazing;
Let us, if we dare to speak,
Join the saints and angels praising.
Alleluia!
- 2 Trembling at His feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law
Shout through them their joyful greeting:
Alleluia!
- 3 Swift the cloud of glory came:
God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder,
Alleluia!
- 4 This is God's beloved Son!
Law and prophets sing before Him,
First and Last and only One.
All creation shall adore Him!
Alleluia!

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Organ Offertory & Steward *MINUTE*

- Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church

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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Farewell to Alleluia

Ecclesiastes 3:1–4, 7

P This week with Ash Wednesday, we begin our observance of Lent. To highlight the penitential nature of the season, it is the Church’s custom to suspend the use of the word “Alleluia,” which means “Praise the Lord.” A tradition has been in place since the fifth century not to use the joyful word “Alleluia” in worship from the conclusion of worship on the final Sunday before Lent, which is today, until the first service on Easter Sunday. The text of our closing hymn, “Alleluia, Song of Gladness,” dates back to the eleventh century and links us to a millennium of God’s people at worship. We now repeat words from the Book of Ecclesiastes, which remind us that there are appropriate times for all things, including a time to keep silence, which we will observe regarding use of the “Alleluia” throughout Lent.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

C a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

P a time to break down, and a time to build up;

C a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

P a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

C a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

P As part of our observance of a holy Lent as it begins this week, we now say farewell to Alleluia until the time of our rejoicing anew at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

C Alleluia! Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

417 Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 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.

- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,
Grant us, blessèd Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter
With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

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