

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Transfiguration of Our Lord/Holy Communion

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. Some churches 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spread out the heavens and the earth, who gives light and breath to the nations, who makes all things new. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Holy and healing God,

we confess that we have fallen short of the life you desire for us. We choose our priorities over your commandments. We divide the body of Christ. The earth groans under our demands. Have mercy, O God. Restore us and all things to health, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

Hear the voice from heaven:

"You are my own, my beloved." You belong to Christ, and through the power of the cross + your sins are all forgiven. God is faithful and will strengthen you, that your light may shine before others, that you may be God's holy people in the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* (ELW 533)

1 Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer. Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!

2 Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, oh, enter thou, let it be thy temple now!

3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown; let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone, so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.

4 Thou my faith increase and quicken, let me keep thy gift divine; howsoe'er temptations thicken, may thy word still o'er me shine as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed; may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed. Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

GREETING

ELW p. 147

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.**

KYRIE

ELW p. 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 148

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, at the glorious transfiguration of your only Son, you confirmed the mystery of our faith by the witness of the disciples and by your own voice from the cloud. Mercifully complete our adoption as your children, and give us, with our King, an inheritance of his glory. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:8–18

A reading from _____.

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.

⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. ¹²The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.” ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷Now 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. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 2:6-12

⁶ “I myself have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.”

⁷ **Let me announce the decree of the LORD: he said to me, “You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.**

⁸ Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.

⁹ **You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”**

¹⁰ And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹ **Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow before him;**

¹² Lest he be angry and you perish; for his wrath is quickly kindled.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16–21

A reading from _____.

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.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For 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,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 151

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1–9

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

¹And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *How Good, Lord, to Be Here!* (ELW 315)

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

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

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

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

5 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.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. `*Or, "who proceeds from the Father."

The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PREFACE

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 ELW p. 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN ELW p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *Beautiful Savior* (ELW 838)

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* (ELW 207)

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done. Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *Let All Things Now Living* (ELW 881)

1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who still guides us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

2 God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Lessons for Next Week: Genesis 3:1-21, Psalm 32:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2012 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23585.

Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Psalms are taken from the Book of Common Prayer (public domain). Logo and art by Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.org). Permission is granted to reproduce this sheet for local congregational use

Listening for the Promise Weekly Devotional Lent 1 — March 9, 2014

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” Matthew 4:1

Many large companies have programs to develop new managers. The programs include lessons on every aspect of the corporation, including tasks managers may not engage in but will supervise. The trainees learn the ins and outs of the company and how to succeed. They are mentored by supervisors until they are ready to take on their own positions in the company. Once the training is over, many young managers seek out better jobs with higher pay and better benefits. They think they are ready for anything, and they think they don't need any more training. Usually they have to do it all again; the new company requires its own training. The young managers are often tempted to skip the activities, thinking they have seen it all before. The humble ones learn that repeated training is necessary. Vocation is not simply a matter of getting a job, or knowing about a job; it is a matter of doing the job.

Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, newly baptized by John the Baptist, was sent to the wilderness on a training program. He had nothing to learn. He could stop a storm and send demons running over cliffs with just a word. He could make the lame walk, the blind see and the deaf hear. He could make God's Kingdom real. Yet, before Jesus could begin his ministry, the Holy Spirit sent him into the wilderness to be tested and tempted. It was a time of preparation and strengthening. The devil may have tried to turn Jesus away from his given path, but God made him ready. When it comes to faith, we wonder why we would need a time of discipline and training, especially since we've gone through Lent many times. But during the forty “training days” of Lent, we put into practice the very marks of faith. Lent is a time for prayer, repentance, discernment and self-denial. Even though we have already done these things many times before, the Lenten journey is an opportunity for us to actually do it. In this life we will always face temptations and testing, but we need not be afraid. We won't do it alone; God's Spirit will guide us in the right path with a renewed sense of assurance and trust in him.

Sola Worship Resource - Weekly Devotional © 2013 Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.org), written by Peggy Hoppes.
Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.