

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Eyewitness to Glory

February 14, 2021



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!

✕ PREPARATION ✕

HYMN OF INVOCATION

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LSB 700 v. 1, 2, 4

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

- 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev’ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;

Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

4 Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

GOD'S KIDS [Song: "My God is so Great, so Strong and so Mighty";
Message: A mountain experience; Prayer]

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do (clap, clap)
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do (clap, clap)
The mountains are His, the rivers are His,
The stars are His handiwork, too.
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do (clap, clap)

My God loves me so, His love is so mighty,
He gave His Son Jesus for me (clap, clap)
My God loves me so, His love is so mighty,
He gave His Son Jesus for me (clap, clap)
He died for my sins, He rose from the grave,
He'll come back in glory for me
My God loves me so, His love is so mighty,
He gave His Son Jesus for me (clap, clap)

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 30:15, 18, 29*

- Pastor: For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
People: “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”
- Pastor: Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.
People: For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.
- Pastor: You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept,
People: 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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Pastor: 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.
People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.
- Pastor: We confess that we have not always brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT *Psalm 99:1–5; antiphon: v. 9*

Pastor: Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

People: ***The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!***

Pastor: *The LORD is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples.*

People: ***Let them praise Your great and awesome name! Holy is He!***

Pastor: *The King in His might loves justice. You have established equity; You have executed justice and*

righteousness in Jacob.

People: Exalt the LORD our God; worship at His footstool!
Holy is He!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

KYRIE *“Lord, have mercy”*

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” LSB 422

1 On my heart imprint Your image,
 Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
 That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures
 Never may Your work erase;
 Let the clear inscription be:
 Jesus, crucified for me,
 Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
 And my glory and salvation!

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF THE DAY

Reader 1: On February 14, we commemorate Valentine, Martyr. The word “martyr” reminds us that Valentine died for confessing his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. For eighteen hundred years, Valentine’s faithful witness has inspired Christian people to faith-filled words and loving deeds.

Reader 2: A physician and priest in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius, Valentine lived in a time when Christians were harshly persecuted because of their religion. Arrested by Roman authorities, he received a death sentence.

Reader 1: Tradition suggests that while Valentine was waiting in prison for his day of execution, he developed a friendship with the young daughter of his jailer. He told the girl about Jesus and shared his hope of heaven. On the day of his execution, he left her a note cut into a special shape. Written inside was a message of affection and encouragement. He signed the letter

“your Valentine,” beginning a tradition that has changed and grown through the centuries.

Reader 2: Love for Christ and love in Christ shaped the actions of Valentine. On Valentine’s Day, it is good to reflect on what that love is like. In the hymn “Love in Christ Is Strong and Living,” poet Dorothy R. Schultz helps our reflection with three beautiful stanzas, set to music by her husband, Ralph C. Schultz. Together we sing the hymn.

HYMN “Love in Christ Is Strong and Living” *LSB 706*

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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OLD TESTAMENT READING *2 Kings 2:1–12* (Elijah goes up to heaven in a whirlwind.)

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 3:12–13; 4:1–6* (Paul writes of God’s people being transformed.)

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. 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:2–9* (Jesus is transfigured on a high mountaintop.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here”
LSB 414 v. 1, 2, 5

- 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.

- 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.

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SERMON “The Glory of Jesus” – Mark 9:2-9

CATECHISM *The First Article*

Pastor: In the First Article, our confession is focused on God,

our Creator, from whom our divine Savior Jesus Christ has proceeded. It is the voice of God the Father that we hear on the Mount of Transfiguration, acclaiming His Son, Jesus, and directing His disciples to listen to Him. As we declare our faith in God the Father, we affirm our trust in His plan for us as His children to grant us life and to place us into vocations through which we can serve Him and our neighbors. We speak the words of this article of the Apostles' Creed followed by the explanation.

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *LSB, p. 215*

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to

God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his

People: wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*, and] all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may follow. After each petition the pastor prays: Lord, in Your mercy, and the people respond: hear our prayer.

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA *Ecclesiastes 3:1–4, 7*

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die;

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

Pastor: a time to break down, and a time to build up;

People: a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

Pastor: a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

People: a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

Pastor: 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.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen.

HYMN “O Bless the Lord, My Soul” *LSB* 814 v. 1, 3, 5, 6

1 O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine.

3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;
'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again.

5 He fills the poor with good;
 He gives the sufferers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
 And justice for the oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
 He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
 By His beloved Son.

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