

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD



Faith Lutheran Church
Made Even More Certain
February 19, 2023

As We Gather: In one sense, the Transfiguration of Our Lord provides a sort of climax to the first part of the story of Jesus in the liturgical year. In the glorious vision, Moses and Elijah appear as if to prove that everything written in the Bible in the Law and the Prophets has come true in the advent and appearance of Jesus, “true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary” (explanation of the Second Article). Yet this climactic event is not yet the true and complete climax of the story, but a transition now into the season of Lent and the road to the true climax: the cross of Good Friday, the resurrection of Easter, His ascension into heaven, and the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. There is so much more to tell. This brief glimpse of glory and Peter’s eyewitness account is to give us the strength and encouragement now to bring the story to completion in us, that we become witnesses in possession of the glorious hope of eternal life through the forgiveness of our sins.

PREPARATION

Invocation

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

God's Kids Opening [Song "Jesus Loves Me #588", Message, Prayer]



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
 He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68. Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Sentences

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!

Confession and Absolution

2 Peter 1:19

- P** That we may enter into the holy presence of Christ, let us confess our sins that we may be made the righteousness of God.
- C** We confess to You, almighty God, our blindness to Your glory and our reluctance to seek Your grace. We have sinned against You and our neighbors by our own fault in both our thoughtless actions as well as the good we have failed to do. For the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, forgive us. Renew our hearts, enliven us in spirit, and let us see Your glorious mercy.

- P** “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.” In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus

Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WORD

Introit

Psalm 99:1–5; antiphon: v. 9

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!
The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name!
Holy is he!
The King in his might loves justice.
You have established equity; you have executed justice and
righteousness in Jacob.
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!

Hymn of Praise My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker #820 sts. 1, 4



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who

mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose
in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His

meek - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry
dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -

weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and
cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -

care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who
ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our

leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.
life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

Text: Johann Gramann, 1487–1541; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: *Concentus novi*, 1540, Augsburg
Text and tune: Public domain

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. 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.

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 24:8–18* (The covenant that the Lord made is confirmed.)

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle 2 Peter 1:16–21 (Eyewitness news)

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Psalm 45:2a

Alleluia. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel Matthew 17:1–9 (The transfiguration)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventeenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹After 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here #414



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 be, 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.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt. Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Apostle Creed

C 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 \mp everlasting. Amen.

Offering, and Contemporary Song "Praise You In This Storm"

Prayer of the Church

P Almighty and merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks for revealing to the world Your goodness and mercy in the gift of Your beloved Son. Being of one substance with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, He has revealed Your glory chiefly in His sacrifice on the cross for the life of the world. Make us certain that because He died and lives again, we and all who trust in Him are now given eternal life in the forgiveness of our sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your Word and Spirit, rule and govern Your holy Church throughout the world and her pastors and ministers in order that we may be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving

Word and may be strengthened in faith and love. Send forth laborers into Your harvest that Your kingdom be extended to all nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your help and protection to all who are in the authority of government, bless our country that righteousness and peace abound that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Comfort with Your Holy Spirit all who are in trouble, want, sickness, or any adversity [especially for.....], that they may receive healing of body and mind and peace in their souls. Bless also all medical professionals and emergency workers and all who supply the needy in any way. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Other Petitions. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P We give thanks for all Your prophets and apostles who have faithfully delivered Your Word through the ages, and for all Your witnesses who have gone before us and are now with You in Your divine presence. Keep us in the sure faith and hope of Your Word that we may one day look upon our Savior face-to-face in the glory of eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through 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

LSB 228

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Farewell to Alleluia

P On this day, alleluias are sung for the last time in the Church until the resurrection of our Lord. Alleluia is not heard during Lent as we turn in penitence to the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ to be renewed in our baptismal faith. Though every Sunday is a “little Easter,” we restrain our praise until Easter Sunday, when all of Christendom joins in singing alleluias to our King. Let us now raise our voices in song as we anticipate not only our coming Easter celebration, but that ultimate feast of victory when we shall all sing “alleluia” with saints and angels, cherubim and seraphim, Moses and Elijah, apostles, martyrs, prophets, and all the company of heaven before the Lamb on His throne.

Closing Hymn Alleluia, Song of Gladness #417



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while
4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed



can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions
Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter



Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of
All thy chil - dren sing with thee; But by Bab - y -
Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn
With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -



God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.
ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: John Goss, 1800–80. Text and tune: Public domain

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