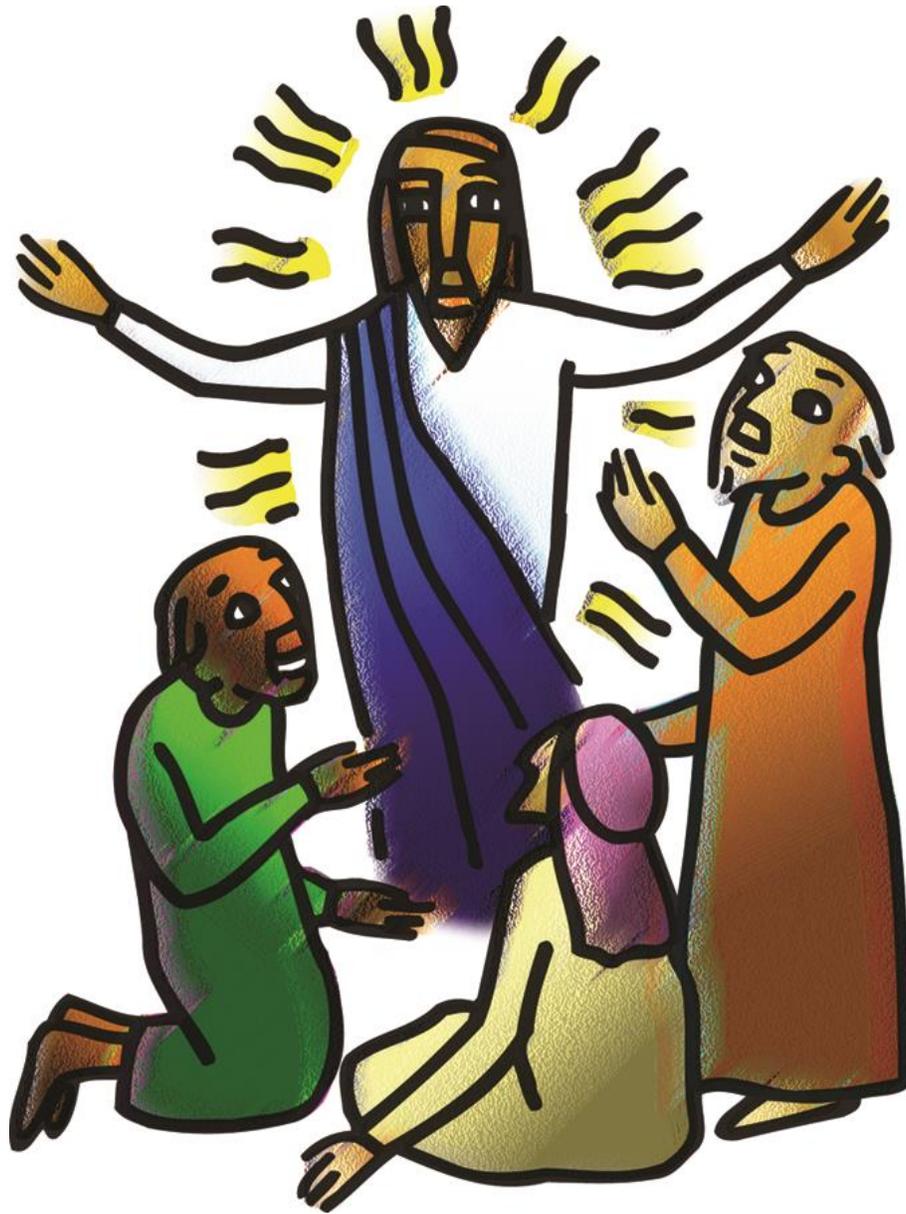


Transfiguration Sunday



Transfiguration Sunday

ELW Service of the Word

St. Paul Lutheran Church—February 14, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to the day

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

PRELUDE

Maestoso
Meditation on "Fairest Lord Jesus"
Prelude No. 2, Op. 39

Hermann Schroeder
Gordon Young
Ludwig van Beethoven

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✠ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts.
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us.
 Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
 so that we may delight in your will
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,
 loved us
 even when we were dead in sin,
 and made us alive
 together with Christ.
 By grace you have been saved.
 In the name of †Jesus Christ,
 your sins are forgiven.
 Almighty God
 strengthen you with power
 through the Holy Spirit,
 that Christ may live in your hearts
 through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

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

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, 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 company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "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 company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord. **Thank be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 50:1-6

Out of Zi - on, per - fect in beau - ty,
God shines forth in glo - ry.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G minor (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

Psalm 50:2

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- ¹The mighty one, God the | LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.
- ²**Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,
God shines | forth in glory. R**
- ³Our God will come and will | not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a | raging storm.
- ⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth | from above
to witness the judgment | of the people.**
- ⁵“Gather before me my | loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed | it with sacrifice.”
- ⁶**The heavens declare the rightness | of God’s cause,
for it is God | who is judge. R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled 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 we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (from setting 3)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Luther Zeigler

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
 we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
 we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
 but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.
 Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: sun, moon, and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants, and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer this day especially those on our prayer list and those whose names we offer now..., that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY SONG

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the hymn.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God,
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,
proclaiming to us your wisdom
and inviting us to follow your call.
For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,
and revived the brokenhearted.
For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we
may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.
For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us,
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.

BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you,
that your lives may be a light to the world.
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800-1880

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Luther Zeigler

Reader: Carl Johnson

Cantor: John Bjorlie

A/V Support: Carl Johnson

Musician and Choir Director: Theodore Stoddard

Liturgical materials and texts are used by permission of *Sundays and Seasons Augsburg Fortress License: 15150*

One License Annual License: A-724876 for 03/06/20 – 03/05/21

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1123 Washington St., Gloucester, MA 01930

978-283-6550, office@stpaulcapeann.org

JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR RIGHT AFTER THE SERVICE

A short, social gathering will be held on Zoom immediately after the service. If you want to participate, just stay signed on to Zoom and Luther will join just as soon as the postlude concludes. Our hope is that this will be a way to interact on Sunday mornings beyond our shared worship. It may not be a real coffee hour, but we'll make it fun!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES AT NOON AND 7:30 P.M. NEXT WEEK!

Even though we won't be able to gather the way we usually do on Ash Wednesday, and cannot for public health reasons observe the imposition of ashes, Pastor Luther will be leading two Ash Wednesday services by Zoom on February 17, one at Noon and one at 7:30 p.m. The Zoom links will be in this week's FYI. These will be ecumenical services that will include congregants from both the Lutheran and Episcopal communities that Pastor Luther serves. A short bulletin will also be included as a PDF in this week's FYI.

WHAT IS OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY DOING FOR LENT?

For each of the 40 Days of Lent, we will be sharing a spiritual micro-practice to help us stay connected in prayer and practice while we are still unable to physically gather. The micro-practices will be posted on Facebook and Instagram, and/or emailed to anyone who would like to participate. The micro-practices are also available in a booklet form for those who prefer that option.

WHAT'S A MICRO-PRACTICE?

A micro-practice is a small spiritual practice. Instead of engaging the same spiritual practice throughout Lent, the micro-practices are meant to give a sample across many different styles of practices. Some are active, some are reflective. They will make you think, take action, connect with God and others, and live into your Christian life.

NEW LEAD GARDEN STEWARD NEEDED!

Kathy Eckles is stepping down as our lead garden steward. Would you like to step in and add to the evolution of beauty in our church gardens?

Your role:

- Plan, plant and tend the gardens Spring through Fall (planting, dead-heading, weeding . . .)
- Trim small trees as needed, edge gardens.
- Ask for helpers for specific seasonal jobs (especially weeding and watering)
- Schedule and ask for help for Spring and Fall cleanups (always plenty of helpers when needed)

Please contact the office if you are interested in filling this role.

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning's Prelude includes an unusual piece by Ludwig van Beethoven, who actually wrote very little for organ. Although it sounds rather simple with a short, tuneful theme, it modulates through all twelve major keys (twice!) in just four minutes. The music begins in C Major, and then follows the "circle of fifths" by adding another sharp to the key signature every few bars. We travel through the keys of G, D, A, E, B, F#, C# (or D-Flat). Then, the flats are subtracted one by one, taking us through A-Flat, E-Flat, B-Flat, F, and finally back to C.

But just when we thought we were safely back in C Major, Beethoven runs through all twelve keys again, seemingly on a wild goose chase. But no! The pattern is finally broken, and we end triumphantly in C Major. For me, I think of this piece as representative of journeying aimlessly through life from one distraction to another, until finally we catch a glimpse of Christ in glory!

OFFICE HOURS FOR PASTOR LUTHER ZEIGLER

Pastor Luther will be in the church offices every Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and it available for individual visits from 10 a.m. to Noon and from 2-3 p.m. He is happy to meet inside or outside, using all necessary precautions regarding distancing and wearing masks. Please call him (617-999-6419) or email him (luther.zeigler@gmail.com) if you would like to make an appointment. He is also always available for pastoral emergencies.

PRAYER LISTS

Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week: Heidi H., Pastor O., Roger K., Dan W., Caitlin G., Elaine V., Andrew G., Hope L., Amy P., Alane B., Daneen R., Sonny M., Mitch O., Tasha R., Willy G., Jim W., Brian D., Ron M., Judith O., Rachael and Tyler, Verna

Remembrance

Please keep Elaine Starrett in your prayers. She passed away on Tuesday, January 25th, in the company of her family. May she rest in peace and may all who loved her also find peace.

Armed services: Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, Liam Carney, and Tony Favalora

Please see the FYI emails for more information