

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

February 23, 2020

Worship Focus

“Now Appearing”... The Glorious Son



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Order of Service for

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD



Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

370 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels
2 Hail him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid
3 Sin - ners whose love can ne'er for - get The worm - wood
4 Let ev - 'ry kin - dred, ev - 'ry tribe On this ter -
5 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at his



pros - trate fall; Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And
Lord did call, The God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, And
and the gall, Go, spread your tro - phies at his feet And
res - trial ball To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe And
feet may fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And



crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the roy - al
crown him Lord of all. The God in - car - nate,
crown him Lord of all. Go, spread your tro - phies
crown him Lord of all. To him all maj - es -
crown him Lord of all. We'll join the ev - er -



di - a - dem And crown him Lord of all.
Man di - vine, And crown him Lord of all.
at his feet And crown him Lord of all.
ty as - cribe And crown him Lord of all.
last - ing song And crown him Lord of all.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

how great
thou art

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Cantors sing the verses. Congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

*Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.*

Refrain

2 *When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,*

Refrain

3 *And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

Refrain

4 *When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"*

Refrain

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior-God, to thee, "How great thou
art! How great thou art!" Then sings my soul, my
Sav-ior-God to thee, "How great thou art! How great thou art!"

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989. © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust. U.S. print rights admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: HOW GREAT THOU ART (11 10 11 10 with Refrain) Swedish folk tune. © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust. U.S. print rights admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



✘ The Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 24:12, 15-18

Long before appearing with Jesus on the Mount, Moses had experienced the Glory of the Lord.

EXODUS 24:12 The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction.”¹⁵ When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it,¹⁶ and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud.¹⁷ To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.¹⁸ Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

PSALM 148

Adult Choir

Words and Music: John Michaels (b. 1947) © 1984 OCP Publications

Refrain

*O bless the Lord, the God of our salvation, Rock of strength and a refuge sure!
O bless the Lord, the God of every nation, over all the earth!*

*O bless the Lord, highest heavens above! Bless the Lord! Glorify his name!
Sun in the day, moon and stars in the night, worship and praise! Refrain*

*Let all the earth sing with joy to the Lord, all the seas, creatures of the deep!
Mountains and hills, birds and beasts in the fields, worship and praise! Refrain*

*Let all the nations on earth bless the Lord, for the Lord governs all the world!
Let all the rulers on earth bless the Lord! Worship and praise! Refrain*

*Let all the peoples on earth bless the Lord! Young and old, glorify his name!
Let every voice sing with joy to the Lord: “Glory and praise!” Refrain*

SECOND LESSON

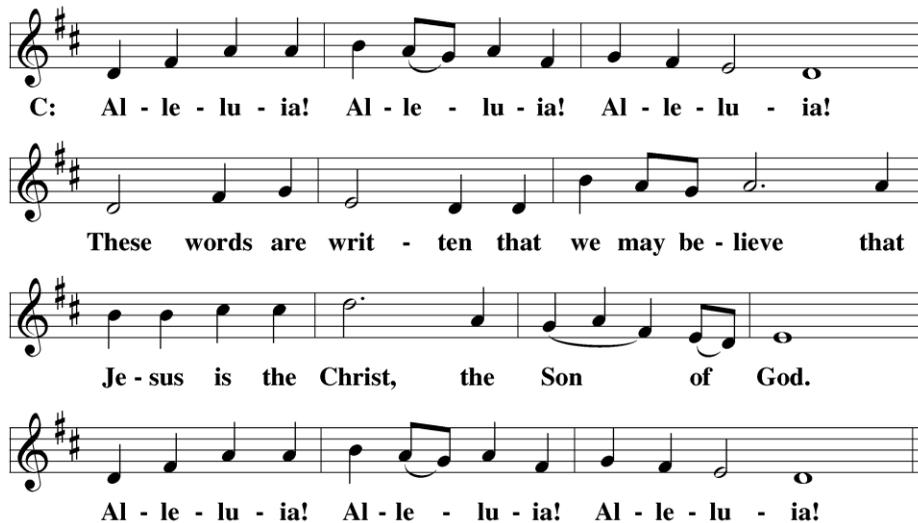
2 Peter 1:16-21

Peter was an eyewitness to the glory manifested by Jesus on the mountain.

² PETER 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

The Transfiguration of Jesus.

MATTHEW 17:1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴ Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” ⁸When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

95 - How Good, Lord, to Be Here



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry
 2 How good, Lord, to be here Your beau - ty
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past, Prom - ise of
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, We see your
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may



fills the night; Your face and gar - ments, like
 to be - hold, Where Mo - ses and E - li -
 things to be, We hail your bod - y glo -
 king - dom come; We long to hold the vi -
 not re - main; But since you bid us leave



the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 jah stand, Your mes - sen - gers of old.
 ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
 sion bright And make this hill our home.
 the mount, Come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.
 Tune: POTSDAM (SM) J. S. Bach, 1685–1750, adapt.

✠ Sermon ✠

Matthew 17:1-9

Divine ~~Intervention~~ Interruption

Sermon notes:

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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 everlasting. Amen.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise you for all that you give us day after day.

C We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C **Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C **Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C **We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN

97 – Down from the Mount of Glory



1 Down from the mount of glo - ry Came Je - sus
2 Trans - fig - ured, Christ, the low - ly, Stood ra - diant
3 Yet mark this glo - ry hid - den! See him the
4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that
5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry Of Je - sus



Christ, our Lord. Re - call the won - drous sto - ry,
in the light, Light found in God - head sole - ly,
mount de - scend And, by the Fa - ther bid - den,
is his fame Our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed
Christ, our Lord, And let the won - drous sto - ry



Rich gem in sa - cred Word. A - gain your faith will
For hu - man eyes too bright. Then came a voice from
His will - ing foot - steps bend To seek hu - mil - i -
A mount—the hill of shame. Up - on the cross he
Full peace and joy af - ford! The ho - ly mount ac -



view him In dou - ble glo - ry here; The great - er
heav - en, Con - firmed what here we see; The words “my
a - tion In deep - est depths of woe, To suf - fer
prof - fered Him - self to ag - o - ny; His ho - ly
claims him The maj - es - ty di - vine; Mount Cal - va -



hom - age due him Will in your life ap - pear.
Son” were giv - en To seal his de - i - ty.
deg - ra - da - tion No mind can probe or know.
soul he of - fered To set the guilt - y free.
ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er—yours and mine.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–96. © 1968 Werner H. Franzmann. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: ICH FREU MICH IN DEM HERREN (76 76 D) Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635.

✠ Sending ✠

PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, the Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

CLOSING HYMN

Latin hymn, 11th cent.
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

LAUDA ANIMA
John Goss, 1800-80



All: Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
All: Al - le - lu - ia, thou re-sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -
Choir: *Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while*
All: 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.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.