



United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!

“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

February 14, 2021

Transfiguration of Our Lord

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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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Thy Stron Word” Williams/Cherwien

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose voice is upon the water, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God

C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN: "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" #314 ELW

**Vs. 1: Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Vs. 2: Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Vs. 3: Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Vs. 4: Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

P: In the beginning was the word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,
C: and the life was the light of all people.
P: The word became flesh and lived among us,
C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Lord Be Glorified" #744 ELW

Vs. 1: In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.

Vs. 4: In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
Honk your horns to greet one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.
C: Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Shine On Us" Smith & Smith

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-14

2 ¹⁻² Just before GOD took Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on a walk out of Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. GOD has sent me on an errand to Bethel." Elisha said, "Not on your life! I'm not letting you out of my sight!" So they both went to Bethel. ³ The guild of prophets at Bethel met Elisha and said, "Did you know that GOD is going to take your master away from you today?" "Yes," he said, "I know it. But keep it quiet." ⁴ Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. GOD has sent me on an errand to Jericho." Elisha said, "Not on your life! I'm not letting you out of my sight!" So they both went to Jericho. ⁵ The guild of prophets at Jericho came to Elisha and said, "Did you know that GOD is going to take your master away from you today?" "Yes," he said, "I know it. But keep it

quiet.”⁶ Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here. GOD has sent me on an errand to the Jordan.” Elisha said, “Not on your life! I’m not letting you out of my sight!” And so the two of them went their way together.⁷ Meanwhile, fifty men from the guild of prophets gathered some distance away while the two of them stood at the Jordan.⁸ Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and hit the water with it. The river divided and the two men walked through on dry land.⁹ When they reached the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, “What can I do for you before I’m taken from you? Ask anything.” Elisha said, “Your life repeated in my life. I want to be a holy man just like you.”¹⁰ “That’s a hard one!” said Elijah. “But if you’re watching when I’m taken from you, you’ll get what you’ve asked for. But only if you’re watching.”¹¹⁻¹⁴ And so it happened. They were walking along and talking. Suddenly a chariot and horses of fire came between them and Elijah went up in a whirlwind to heaven. Elisha saw it all and shouted, “My father, my father! You—the chariot and cavalry of Israel!” When he could no longer see anything, he grabbed his robe and ripped it to pieces. Then he picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him, returned to the shore of the Jordan, and stood there. He took Elijah’s cloak—all that was left of Elijah!—and hit the river with it, saying, “Now where is the GOD of Elijah? Where is he?” When he struck the water, the river divided and Elisha walked through.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” #207 ELW

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.

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 9th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-10

²⁻⁴ Six days later, three of them *did* see it. Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, in deep conversation

with Jesus. ⁵⁻⁶ Peter interrupted, “Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let’s build three memorials—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah.” He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing. ⁷ Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: “This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him.” ⁸ The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus. ⁹⁻
¹⁰ Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. “Don’t tell a soul what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, you’re free to talk.” They puzzled over that, wondering what on earth “rising from the dead” meant.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: “Thy Strong Word” #511 ELW vss. 1, 2

Vs. 1: Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; at thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank thee, while thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to thee who light dost send! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

**Vs. 2: Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and deep as death,
broke the light of thy salvation, breathed thine own life-breathing breath.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to thee who light dost send! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

APOSTLE’S 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

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

Honk your horns three times after each petition

P: 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.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For all who suffer this day, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

THE 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.

ANOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.

C: Amen.

Honk your horns one last time.

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Vs. 1: Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

Vs. 2: As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

POSTULDE: "How Good, Lord, to Be Here" Mercer/Organ