

**LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
**February 19, 2023**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING DIALOGUE**

P: Into the dark places of the world where people are frightened and hungry

C: **God, bring light, bring love.** *(a candle is lit)*

P: Into the places where we feel unsafe, into situations that hurt and scare us,

C: **God, bring light, bring love.** *(a candle is lit)*

P: Into the places where people are fighting, into places where people have no homes

C: **God, bring light, bring love.** *(a candle is lit)*

**INVITATION TO PRAYER**

P: God of life, do not darken your light to us. O God of life, do not close your joy to us.  
O God of life, do not shut your door to us. O God of life, do not refuse your mercy to us.

C: **God of life, crown us with your gladness.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**EvLW # 838 Beautiful Savior**

**GREETING**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of saints be with you all. **And also with you.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

**Holy One, source of our renewal, we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

**Exodus 24:12-18**

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now 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. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 2**

Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against the Lord’s anointed?**

“Let us break their yoke,” they say; “let us cast off their | bonds from us.”

**God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the Lord holds them in derision.**

Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

**“As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**

Let me announce the decree of the Lord, who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

**And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

Submit to the Lord with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

**lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

**SECOND READING****2 Peter 1:16-21**

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL****Matthew 17:1-9**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY****EvLW # 315 How Good, Lord to Be Here****PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor and local leaders, our premier and prime minister, and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated especially Lloyd, Jordon, Elethia, Deb, Daryl, Carol, Norma, Regan, Anne, and Florence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and taste the joy of God!

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

**EvLW # 715 Christ, Be Our Light**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod ✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**EvLW # 318 Alleluia, Song of Gladness**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	Feb 20	Exodus 33:7-23	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55	Acts 7:30-34
Tue	Feb 21	1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 11:1-6	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
Wed	Feb 22	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 51:1-17 (1)	2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
	<i>(Ash Wednesday)</i>		Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	
Thu	Feb 23	Jonah 3:1-10	Romans 1:1-7	Psalm 51
Fri	Feb 24	Jonah 4:1-11	Romans 1:8-17	Psalm 51
Sat	Feb 25	Isaiah 58:1-12	Matthew 18:1-7	Psalm 51
Sun	Feb 26	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7		Psalm 32 (10)
	<i>(First Sunday in Lent)</i>		Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

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