



Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Church (Russian Orthodox)
Ninilchik, Kenai Peninsual, Alaska, USA

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
February 14, 2021
The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sunday, February 14, 2021

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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.

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Improvisation

This Sunday at Dove, we celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus went to pray on a mountain, separate from his disciples. When he returned he was bathed in a radiant light, and a voice from above was heard identifying him as the Son of God. For prologue, our organist offers a free improvisation reflecting on these dramatic events.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

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

Holy God,
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 us, 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.

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.
Amen.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo-ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the
glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

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.

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.

A reading from Second Kings.

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."

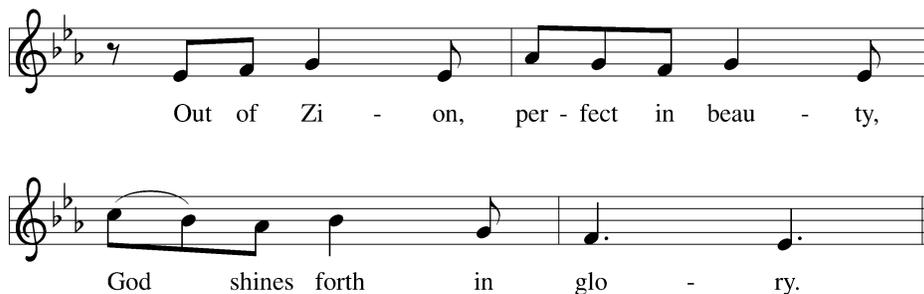
⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing 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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 50:1-6

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 50:2

Psalm refrain reproduced from Psalter for *Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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- 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. REFRAIN**
- 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. REFRAIN**

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.

A reading from Second Corinthians.

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #169

The assembly sings the Alleluia before and after the gospel verse.



Cantor: This is my | Son, my Chosen,*
lis- | ten to him! (Luke 9:35)

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

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.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 any more, 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

Pastor Steve Springer



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

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.

O Lord, your church on earth has been transformed by the circumstances of the past year. Keep us strong to bring your word of comfort and love to your people, and a message of hope to the world. We pray for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ as they proclaim the gospel in word and deed.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you do not require burnt offerings of calves or goats for they are already yours. You have given us all good things, and you ask us to sacrifice them on the altar of humanity's needs. Keep us mindful of those needs and lead us to generously give time and talents, that your love may transfigure us and those we serve.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, your desire for the nations is that they be governed in equity, justice and peace. Turn leaders from every evil intent, shatter the bonds of oppression, protect the innocent victims of conflict, and give them hope for the future.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, in this time of trial we pray for deliverance as the Corona virus persists and comes closer with the deaths of friends and loved ones. We pray for its eradication from the earth, but until that time grant us protection through an effective vaccine, responsible behavior, and your healing touch for all who have contracted this insidious illness.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for all who suffer this day, physically or emotionally. Bring healing and wholeness to broken bodies, weak hearts, and confused minds. Transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace. Guide us all during the struggles we face, that your glory may be revealed around and among us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, in the coming time when our alleluias are suspended and we are mindful of our need for mercy and forgiveness, let us see the beauty of your holiness and seek your face. Remind us that we are never alone and we never go unnoticed.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With joyful voices we give thanks for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, especially missionaries Cyril and Methodius. Let their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living and our giving.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

My Eyes for Beauty Pine
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Herbert Howells was one of the most important English composers of the 20th century. He wrote for several genres, and is particularly revered for his Anglican choral works. Today's anthem is somewhat unusual for its mostly unison writing, yet striking for its beauty nonetheless. Today, we consider Jesus's transfiguration, in which Jesus's face shone like the sun, according to Matthew's account. The words of our anthem offer another description of that celestial fire, that can be seen in the eyes of all who burn with true desire for God's love.

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God's grace,
no other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face.

One splendor thence is shed from all the stars above:
'tis named when God's name is said, 'tis love, 'tis heavenly love.

And every gentle heart that burns with true desire
is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.



- 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

EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546
 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

J. S. Bach's Preludes and Fugues for organ, which comprise many of his most well known compositions for the instruments, were not necessarily composed together, and often Bach would compile these pieces, based on the key. In the case of the Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, it is thought that the Prelude was likely composed while Bach lived and worked in Leipzig, as it contains similarities to other organ preludes from that period. However, the Fugue was likely an earlier composition, probably dating from Bach's time in Weimar. It begins with a solid, stately subject, before a faster moving, bubbling second subject appears. Bach then combines the two subjects in masterful fashion, building to an exciting ending.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Christine Alexander, Lector
Dianne Huston, Assisting Minister
Eric Holtan, Cantor and Director of Choirs
Kevin Seal, Organ