

February 27th Worship – Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday
Introduction to the Day

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates us,
redeems us,
and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have
done and the things we have left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.**

Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

Gathering Song "Arise, Your Light Has Come!"

#314

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lesson – 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1}Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Children's Message

Gospel – Luke 9:28-36

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Message

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

If you’ve stuck with us to this point in this Transfiguration Sunday worship, unlike most of the worships you’ve experienced of late, I want you to ponder a question.

I want you to think about where you are.

In our Gospel text, the disciples realize the goodness of where they are and they say, “Jesus, it is good for us to be here. Let us build a dwelling place for those who are with us – Moses and Elijah.”

I want you to think about the place that you are in. And, as you think about the place that you are in – whether that be in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, watching online on Sunday morning, or if you worship by reading this worship packet each week – I want you to think about why you are there.

Why did you choose, or why are you worshipping from the place that you are in the worship that you chose for this day is that the way you are worshipping is how you are worshipping this day – what about your worship style/location this day made you want to worship where you are. And, this could be many places. It could be the sanctuary, your home, vacation, your ice shack, or many more, what about THAT place made it the place you wanted to worship from? And, why is it good?

Again, we hear the words from the disciples, “Jesus, it is good for us to be here.”

I would hope that the place that you are worshipping from is a place that you believe to be good. That it is good for you to be where you are. And, I hope that you can answer the question of what about that place makes it good for you to be there.

And, as you ponder that for a moment, I want you to think about where you aren’t. Not only that, but I want you to think of some of the other answers that people may have for this same question. How might people who are experiencing worship in a different format from you this morning be answering this question? What about THEIR worship approach may be good for them?

As long as it was that we were worshipping in a virtual format only, we are closer than we realize to having been re-opened for physical in-person worship for a year now...for those who have chosen that, and it has been good to be here.

It has been a joy each Sunday morning to see the new faces that are going to see if in-person worship is something they are comfortable with again. To worship. To experience the community of the physically gathered.

But, we are not naïve. We know that physically gathering is not for everyone just yet. We know that there are people for whom worship at home is what is best and most comfortable and safe for them.

And, as we have gone along being back physically together for many but not all, the questions start to come up, “It is good to be here, why isn’t everyone? It is good for us to see each other’s faces, why isn’t everyone wanting that worship experience?”

Those are the questions we have asked.

And, on the opposite side of that are people watching from home thinking, “my goodness, I can’t believe there are that many people worshipping together in a single space.”

And these differences can, but don’t need to, divide. They can pull us apart. The questions of “how come we don’t have everyone here in person,” or “how come there are that many people in a single space,” can become a dividing question, but they don’t need to.

Because, as the disciples asked the question on that day, “Jesus, it is good for us to be here, can’t we just stay and build a dwelling place in this goodness,” guess what, Jesus did not keep them there.

As quickly as they said they ought to build a dwelling place one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, as quickly as they voiced that hope, a cloud came over them and when it cleared, all that remained was Jesus.

They loved to be where they were.

But, Jesus told them that they needed to head down that moment and go and do the work that needs to be done. We need to come down this mountain and get out into God’s world seeing where it is that God’s grace and mercy needs to be lived out. And, if the place that you believe to be good for you to be in is a place that you don’t want to leave at all,

OR, (and please hear this) if the place that you want to be in, the place that you believe to be good, is a place where you think is the only place that God’s work can be done from, guess what...

You need to come down from that mountain.

And if you think that the place that you are in is the only place that God’s work can happen from you need to come down from that mountain.

If you are in the “I can’t believe that there aren’t more people here” camp, you need to know that God’s work can happen for those who worship from home in this phase that we are in as church.

Conversely, if you are in the “I can’t believe that many people are physically gathered” camp, you need to know, that God’s work does happen.

And, whichever of those two places you find yourself in, you need to know that it is not just in those places that God’s work can happen.

Rather, just as Jesus brought those disciples down from that mountain that day, that mountaintop experience, that place that is so good that we ought to just remain in, Jesus brings them down from the mountain.

And in that coming down they see the need for God’s work in the world. They see the importance of doing the work that God in Jesus Christ is about.

Jesus said, “they appeared in glory and were speaking about his departure that he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem,” that to think that what happens at the end of the Season of Lent is something that Jesus is going to

accomplish, is a reminder of why we come down from the mountain top. It is a reminder that being the body of Christ and doing God's work is about more than gathering in worship.

Yes it fills us.

Yes it sustains us.

Yes it nourishes us.

But, we need to know that wherever it is that we feel good, that it is beyond that where God's work happens.

People of God, yes it is good to be here, but wherever it is that you are is not the only place that one can be. God's work, church in this time, happens in so many different ways and we need to realize it.

People here in the sanctuary we are going to continue to stream our worship on the World Wide Web. People at home, we are going to continue to gather and we cannot wait until that day when you are with us.

But, know this, God's work in God's world is not confined to the space of this sanctuary, the screen of our computer, or the paper of our worship packet in the comfort of our homes...

It is so much greater.

As much as we would love to remain here, we must go out, we must come down from the mountain and go and see and do what it is that God is up to in the world.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Song of the Day **"Shine, Jesus Shine"**

#671

Apostle's Creed

Prayers

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Transform us by your greatness, O God. Send us down the mountain to share joy with all people. Make us agents of change, confident that your hope will vanquish despair and your goodness will conquer evil. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The mountains and valleys sing your praise. Dazzle us with your presence in every landscape: bluffs built by ancient glaciers, canyons carved by flowing rivers, flat horizons with uninterrupted views, and sands shaped by ocean tides. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You love justice and establish equity. Strengthen leaders of local governments, community nonprofits, and grassroots campaigns. Bless them with gifts of integrity, creativity, and sound conscience. Build up safe and joyful communities where all people may thrive. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Heal those who are in distress. We pray especially for Peyton, Kathy, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Frank and Heather, Sherm and Mary, and all others we name both silently and aloud. Give patience to those waiting for answers. Grant hope to those who have reached the limits of treatment. Give compassionate hearts to those who accompany loved ones through illness and uncertainty. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Today we shout alleluia from the mountaintop; this week we enter the wilderness of Lent. Bless all who prepare and lead us in worship during this change of season: pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who contribute to our worship life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are they who listened to Christ's voice in this life and now rest with him. Transform us from glory into glory, and give us your peace, that we do not lose heart. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,

Sovereign of the universe.

You offer us new beginnings

and guide us on our journey.

Lead us to your table,

nourish us with this heavenly food,

and prepare us to carry your love

to a hungry world,

in the name of Christ our light.

Amen.

Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, "this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me."

Once you've taken the elements say, We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Communion Prayer

Sending Song

"We Are Marching in the Light"

#866

Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,

who rejoices over you,

and who calls you by name,

✠ bless your going out and your coming in,

today and forever.

Amen.

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

**Ash Wednesday services will be Wednesday, March 2 at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Lenten worship will be each following week at 6:30 p.m.**

Welcoming New Neighbors

Welcoming New Neighbors is sponsoring refugee households in the Eau Claire area. The items below are needed to furnish the apartments/homes (we anticipate up to five households). Some items must be new (noted), all should be clean and in very good condition.

Click the link below to see if they are still in need of items you may have. You will be asked to provide your email address and phone number (not visible to other donors) so coordinators can contact you to collect your items.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044eaba72ca0f49-lssrefugee>

Empty Bowls

Support local hunger relief March 1-3 by purchasing a Bowl Gift Box from Feed My People Food Bank. Ticket packages range from \$20-\$40.

Drive through to pick up your box on March 2. See their website for more information:
give.fmpfoodbank.org/emptybowlsweek.

Academy for Lifelong Learners (formerly Senior Americans Day)

This positively ageless program will once again provide a fun day of education, resources, and social interaction. Featuring keynote speaker, Wisconsin Public Radio show host, Dr. Zorba Paster.

New this year, portions of Academy for Lifelong Learners will be live-streamed. Registration opens on Tuesday, March 8. Cost is \$59 per person. Learn more at uwec.ly/ALL or call UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education.