

Transfiguration of Our Lord – Sunday, February 11th, 2024

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.

Greeting – 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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

#671

Prayer of the Day

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.

Children's Message

Psalm 50:1-6

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.**

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.**

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark 9:2-9

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

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

Six days later...what was six days before this? Jesus had just foretold His death and resurrection to the disciples. We have no clue what happened in the six days that followed, but six days later I'd imagine that this news is still very fresh in their minds.

So six days removed from that news, Jesus takes what we assume to be three of his closest friends up the mountain – apart – by themselves.

And, it is there that they have this mountaintop experience.

It is there that they find themselves with Jesus who is dazzling white, brighter than any bleach on earth could achieve, and with him are Moses and Elijah, and they are just their having a conversation.

Now, just a quick aside, imagine someone from your life right now in this role of Jesus. They consider you a close confidant and friend and they take you a couple of others away to a mountaintop, apart by yourselves. And, when you were there you 2 others from your ancestry that you have only read stories about, but never actually met. You've heard of the great things that God declared to them, but you've never actually met them. Imagine that feeling. That is what the disciples are experiencing!

Not knowing what to do in the moment because they were terrified, Peter offers up the idea of building a dwelling place for each of them. It is so good for us to be here, let us remain in this moment.

At that moment a cloud overshadows them, from which comes a voice, “this is my Son, the Beloved; listen to Him!”

When the dust settles and the cloud clears, “they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.”

This story is a story of grand Godly gesture. Jesus leads his followers up a mountain to where they have a true mountaintop experience, and that is before the appearance of the speaking cloud, that simply the icing on the cake. But it is what this big grand mountaintop experience is bookended by that grabs our attention as we find ourselves in the final days before the season of Lent.

A colleague in a Facebook group of Dads who are also Lutheran Leaders posed the following thought. With this story we so often latch onto the big grand experience, and the wonder and amazement of being in the presence of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, that we miss the fact that the disciples fail to realize that Jesus is enough.

Jesus took them up that mount apart, by themselves. When the dust settles there was no one with them any more, but only Jesus. Jesus is enough.

How often we fail to realize that. How often we tell ourselves we need more more more, when the truth, in our lives of faith, is that Jesus is enough.

So, what does this mean for us?

Well, on the way back down the mountain that day, “Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

People of God, that is where we are headed. What does it mean for us as people of faith, in our lives of faith, that the promise of the resurrection is enough for us?

What does it mean for us as people of faith, about to set out on this Lenten Journey where we will explore what the Jesus invite looks like and how/who it is that we are Created to Be in the world, that Jesus and the promise of his resurrection is enough for us?

Yes, he told them not to tell anyone until the Son of Man had risen from the dead, but we live with that knowledge and the promise every day of our lives.

Therefore, as the voice in the cloud declares, are we not supposed to “listen to him!”

As people of faith we are so often so good at building dwelling places in ourselves for the promises that God calls us to share to the whole world. Unlike the disciples who were left to ponder what all of what Jesus had to say to them actually meant, we know full well what he told them six days earlier meant for the world and how it would come to fruition.

This is a hope and a promise that can't be containing to the neat little boxes and places of worship that we often want to keep them in, this is a hope and a promise that God declares is to be spread throughout the whole world.

And yes, that may very well mean inviting ourselves into the season of Lent, to look deep within ourselves to see what this promise means for us, but it also means inviting others to experience the fullness of God's grace.

That is what the Transfiguration is about.

That is what the Season of Lent is about.

That is what being a person of faith is about.

People of God, we have come down from that mountaintop.

We have seen and heard the good news of the resurrection.

It is time we go and tell the whole world about it.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Hymn of the Day

“Beautiful Savior”

#838 vs. 1,3,4

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of Intercession

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for any who are sick and suffering (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Peggy, Dan and Sharon*). Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died (*especially*). Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One,

for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table,

that we receive what we seek

and follow your Son, Jesus,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Words of Institution

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

Communion

#471 & #483

Prayer

Giver of every gift,
Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

You are God’s beloved. Go in peace!
Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!
And all of Good Shepherd said...
AMEN!

Sending Song

“We Are Marching in the Light”

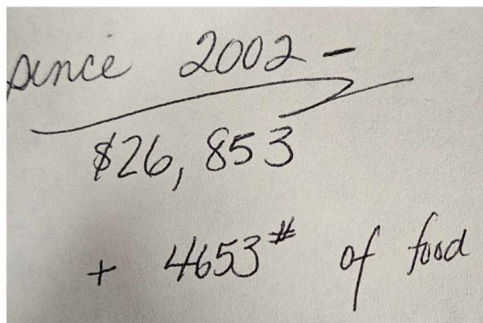
#866

Blessing

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Your Generosity in Action:



A generosity moment update!
Here is a quick scratch pad note that was sent to Pastor Josh after our confirmation students had been at Feed my People. This is the impact that Good Shepherd has made in the community through FMP since 2002.

THANK YOU!!

Monthly Financials to date:	Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Difference
	\$5,973	\$6,227	-\$254
	2023: \$23,547	2023: \$27,224	

Update on Leadership Team

Following the Annual Meeting the following officers were elected:

- President - Chuck Cramer
- Vice President - Matt Dragseth
- Secretary - JoJo Anderson
- Treasury Liaison - Emily Barth

Ash Wednesday Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, February 14
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm



Jesus
Invites Us

Sundays in Lent

Worship at 9 am

2/17 Invite...to Repent

2/24 Invite...out of Shame

3/3 Invite...to be Genuine

3/10 Invite...to Dream

3/17 Invite...to Rest

3/24 Invite...to Invite

CREATED
TO BE

Wednesdays in Lent

Dinner at 5:00 Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30

2/14 Ash Wednesday

2/21 Created to Be...Brave

2/28 Created to Be...Authentic

3/6 Created to Be...Disruptive

3/13 Created to Be...Free

3/20 Created to Be...Disciples