

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY



February 14, 2021

10:00 a.m.

# Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday

## INTRODUCTION

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.

## PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

P 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.

**Congregation (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 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.**

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.**

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
Music: FESTIVAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893  
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## GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE



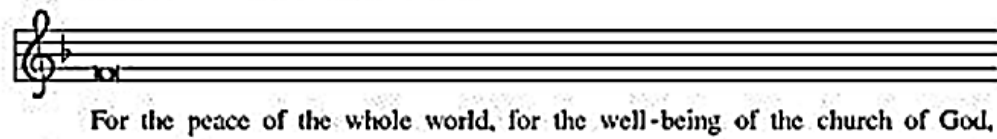
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



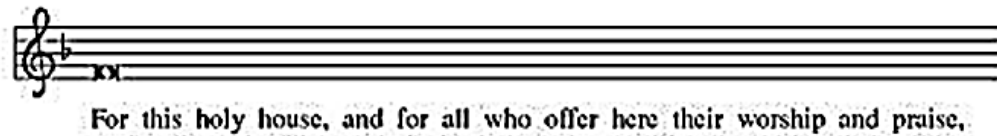
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



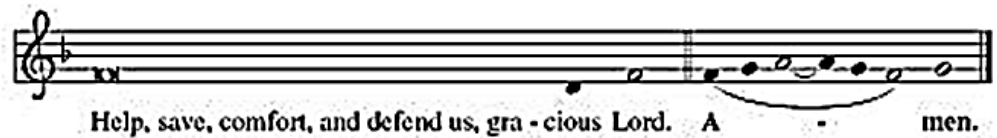
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.



+ WORD +

## 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah 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. <sup>3</sup>The 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."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah 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. <sup>5</sup>The 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."

<sup>6</sup>Then 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. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.

<sup>9</sup>When 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.” <sup>10</sup>He 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.” <sup>11</sup>As 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. <sup>12</sup>Elisha 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 50:1-6**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the | LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.

C <sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,  
God shines | forth in glory.**

L <sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will | not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a | raging storm.

C <sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth | from above  
to witness the judgment | of the people.**

L <sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my | loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed | it with sacrifice.”

C <sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness | of God’s cause,  
for it is God | who is judge.**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

C **Amen.**

## 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.*

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.

Reader        The word of the Lord.

**C                Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## 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.*

P        The holy gospel according to Mark, the ninth chapter.

**C        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. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then 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.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As 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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

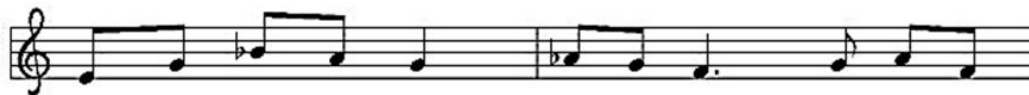
C Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 306 *Come, Beloved the Maker (vs. 1-4)*



1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -  
 2 See the Morn - ing - star now beck - on those  
 3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low  
 4 There we too will burn and bright - en, God's re -  
 5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose



hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's  
 bound to doubt and night; "Fol - low me," Christ calls in  
 to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of  
 splen - dent work be - gun; glo - ry will as - cend and  
 glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and



splen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.  
 wel - come, "come from dark - ness in - to light."  
 an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.  
 height - en, crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.  
 splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
 Music: JILL, David Cherwien, b. 1957  
 Text © 2001 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © 2002 Augsburg Fortress.



## NICENE CREED

A God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends: Let us pray.*

*Congregational response: Have mercy, O God.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

### OFFERING HYMN

We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing. we are an of-fer-ing.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**C** 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.

+ SENDING +

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

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

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN 671 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

*Refrain*



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*



Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:

## DISMISSAL

- A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:
- C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.
- P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- C Thanks be to God.

+ + +

## MY ST. STEPHEN FRIENDS

2021 Edition

*(Sung to the tune of "My Favorite Things")*

This past year's been such a strange aberration.  
No crowded pews – not until vaccinations.  
No more events in the fellowship hall.  
Oh, how we miss the sheer joy of it all.

No more big smiles – our masks totally hide them.  
No more big hugs – there's a virus inside them.  
No children's time, no more choir, no Arise.  
Our former laughter has turned into sighs!

But I have a quick solution  
when the world seems sad.  
I simply remember my St. Stephen friends,  
and then I don't feel so bad.

Here's the good news, in a world that's so nervous:  
Sundays at 10, Facebook brings us our service.  
Kath-a-rine still sounds majestic online.  
All of the Bartons still sound so divine.

We still have hymns and communion and prayers,  
Pastor, Church Council and faithful workday-ers.  
Sure, we miss potlucks, but soon they'll return.  
In a pandemic, there's one thing you learn:

When the world seems dark and frightful,  
when you're feeling sad,  
you simply remember your St. Stephen friends,  
and then you don't feel so bad!



**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
BY CAROLINE COLLINS  
AND IN HONOR OF HER MOM  
MARGARETE DECKERT'S 88TH BIRTHDAY.**



**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
BY RON HARTUNG TO HIS  
VALENTINE'S DAY BRIDE, RUTHIE,  
WHO SAID "I DO" IN ST. STEPHEN'S FORMER  
SANCTUARY 29 YEARS AGO TODAY.**

**Calendar for February 14 - 21**

Feb.	14	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship (online), Transfiguration of Our Lord
	17	Wed.		Worship (online), Ash Wednesday
	21	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship (online), First Sunday in Lent

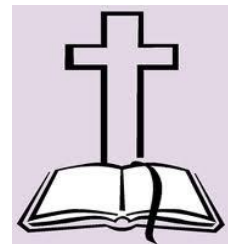
**Next Sunday's Readings, First Sunday in Lent:**

[Genesis 9:8-17](#)

[Psalm 25:1-10](#)

[1 Peter 3:18-22](#)

[Mark 1:9-15](#)



## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Family of Louise “Cootie” Rhodes, mourning her passing; Mark Canning for treatment of heart condition; prayers for healing for Mark Eagelfeld (friend of Judi Duffy), being treated for COVID.

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor); being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Jamie Ann Meyers (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Tiffany Nuce and unborn baby (family of Barbara ODonnell); Chris Dickman (synod councilmember); child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personal, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc; all immigrant families split apart by US Government; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those unaccounted for”.

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.