

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
The Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 14, 2021

PRELUDE

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Robert Hughes

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT (*from Psalm 48*)

P Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, His holy mountain.

C It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth.

P God is in her citadels; He has shown Himself to be her fortress.

C As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord Almighty, in the city of our God: God makes her secure forever.

P Within Your temple, O God, we meditate on Your unfailing love.

C Like Your name, O God, Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.

C For this God is our God forever and ever;

C He will be our guide even to the end.

All Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Holy God, You have revealed the glory of Your love in Jesus Christ, and have made us Your own. By Your Holy Spirit, help us to listen to Your Son and follow Him faithfully, that the light of Your gospel may shine in the darkness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-12

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³And even 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

P Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to Him!" Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th 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. 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy glory fills the night;

Thy face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beauty to behold
where Moses and Elijah stand, Thy messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be,
we hail Thy body glorified and our redemption see.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
but since Thou bidst us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

SERMON "Reflections on the Church Year: Love and Epiphany to Lent" (insert)
Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Guided by Christ, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

P For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world.
Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all of creation; for sun, moon and stars; for mountains, clouds and streams; for new life and for creatures seen and unseen; and for guidance in our stewardship of God's creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For those responsible for safety and protection; for emergency responders, community advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they bear witness to God's mercy and justice throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all who are suffering, that the healing power of Christ transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace. We pray especially for all on our prayer line and those we remember now by name...(PAUSE). Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For our families, our companions on life's journey, and for this worshipping community; for loved ones who cannot be with us, and for guidance during the struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us. We pray especially for the faculty, staff and students of Concordia College and The Chapel School, and for the caring ministry of the Lutheran Counseling Center and the Wartburg. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We give thanks for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, especially those dear to us, that their lives of service and prayer continue to inspire us in our daily living. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful God, hear our prayers for the sake of the One who dwells among us, Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:

C 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.

CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem ever raised by choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.

Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep Thine Easter with Thy faithful saints on high;
there to Thee forever singing Alleluia joyfully.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

Anne Krentz Organ

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector Ellen Story



Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708
914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG

Reflections on the Reading by Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

February 14, 2021

Reflections on the Church Year: Love and Epiphany to Lent - 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.

Reflections:

1. Today the church year connects with a romantic holiday: Transfiguration Sunday with St. Valentine's Day.
2. Valentine was the name of several early Christian leaders, dating back to the 3rd century. These stories, although hard to document, have, over time, become associated with the idea of human love.
3. Like other Christian holidays, St. Valentine's Day is probably rooted in a Roman holiday, a fertility celebration that was called Lupercalia. It explains the romantic connections to the holiday.
4. In our Lutheran tradition, the Transfiguration is the seasonal transition from Jesus' teaching and healing ministry in Epiphany to the focus upon His suffering and death in Lent; from His life to a demonstration of His love through death.
5. Today is a day to celebrate human love and companionship. It is also a day to turn our hearts to the ultimate love for humanity, the love of Christ.

Reflections
on
the
Reading

Personal Notes:

Reflections on the Church Year: Love and Epiphany to Lent Mark 9:2-9

NYHULA
 OEVZPFASZ
 WUHMFM TDUGZ
 IKQZUQKTII DOS
 NILJGDCFAISBCEZ
 CBHHORFGJQMTUWO
 LMOYSLNPKJ TQJGTN
 HKSHYAJYIBHRLNDQTD
 SBXCTONJKXLZRJVTFY
 BFQWMDYXAEFFIWP GOWRHC IQFJCMJQOIUGPJVJ
 LNBUQPJUGFLUPERCALIATUFRSWLMMSFJSRSDO
 OGHPFMDKXPNKVVLZMCINQNIKSAZLTHYCSBICD
 VXLEACLZCNP CRDJWOLAWQRSXOOHIYKOZPMMWO
 EYSSDEKLCMXCGMQRKMB SHRLRQEAITMAVPYBOV
 TOQSGOFYKJMWABBSOWZCSMVKENUWPLJYGE XWE
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 YOZMRTEFCRKAJJSV GUPLANBHQOEJXSZVU
 ZDYMRMDVQM JXFWGJMKNSZQA I LKVKWPYE
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 YDPZ FJFPEHDFKFSYFIZSJVVQYJUHLDO
 NPSSXVSDOTIXKVIPEVEGZHNOQLAMC
 SETKIBRDFGNIIGYOKVBCBSRSNJGWM
 UAZLOTHPOYEUIPLGYBCATJUZVFE
 MJZWKJUFURLEMBXNCSBGSBYDF
 VYARHCNCALMRICUAUHKKXBWTE
 HOPFQZTZN TSMUHHTTYSBFB O
 FAXGILBZHIMZMPJEDDGIG
 ICOWENIDUMHXITXCYZC
 NBQLVILSDAFPLBEDD
 EIKRWWNVXTEZSSP
 ATIZIETTQEWHD
 LTFXSWYFCPV
 IEKGV SZPO
 PJPWIYB
 CEQDL
 BSV
 F

WORD LIST:

CHRIST
 CHRISTIAN
 COMPANIONSHIP
 EPIPHANY

FERTILITY
 HUMAN
 LENT
 LOVE

LUPERCALIA
 LUTHERAN
 ROMANTIC
 TRANSFIGURATION

ULTIMATE
 VALENTINE