

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

February 14, 2021

10:00 a.m.

LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY: TRANSFIGURATION



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.

Thanks to our New Orleans Jazz Ensemble:
Bob Boman, trumpet; Randy Lee, clarinet; Tim Stratioti, trombone;
Aaron Hallsten, banjo; Rich Mowers, tuba; Todd Larson, drums

PRELUDE *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Jazz Ensemble

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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;
for all we have said and left unsaid.**

With your divine mercy, Amen.

Through the merciful power and promise of † Jesus Christ,
our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Forgiven, we are called to live Christ's justice
and make room for the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #860 *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

APOSTOLIC 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.

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

FIRST READING *2 Kings 2:1-12*

read by Beth Storaasli

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.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

read by Mark Knutson

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.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #172 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL *Mark 9:2-9*

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

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

HYMN OF THE DAY *I'll Fly Away*




Some bright mor - ning when this life is o'er I'll fly a - way.
When the sha - dows of this life have gone I'll fly a - way.
Oh, how glad and hap - py when we meet I'll fly a - way.



To that home on God's ce - le - stial shore I'll fly a - way.
Like a bird from pri - son bars has flown, I'll fly a - way.
No more cold iron shack - les on my feet, I'll fly a - way.



I'll fly a - way, O glo - ry; I'll fly a - way.



When I die, Hal - le - lu - jah by and by, I'll fly a - way.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Amen/This Little Light of Mine*

Jazz Ensemble

OFFERING PRAYER

O God,
receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.
Amen.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

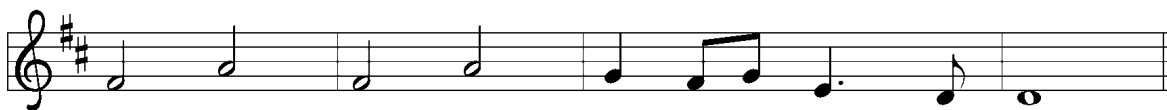
*O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Ps. 63:1*

The brightness of God's presence blazes and guides us as we journey through time. Gift us, O God, as you did the magi, secure steps as we go. We take this bread, and remember the faithful God sustained and accompanied on their journey—Elijah, Elisha, and musicians Marian Anderson, Louis Armstrong, Mahalia Jackson and Andrae Crouch. We taste this bread, marveling with joy at how God provides for us in all times and places. May the light God gives burn brightly in us and spill out into God's world. **Amen.**

HYMN #744 *Lord, Be Glorified*



1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;



in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Walking in the light of Christ, we pray:

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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BURYING THE ALLELUIA

Sing verses 1-3 of Glory, Glory, Hallelujah before the dialogue



1 Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! since I laid my
 2 I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter, since I laid my
 3 Feel like shout - ing, "Hal - le - lu - jah!" since I laid my
 4 I am climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der, since I laid my
 5 Ev - 'ry round goes higher and high - er, since I laid my



bur - den down. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le -
 bur - den down. I feel bet - ter, so much
 bur - den down. Feel like shout - ing, "Hal - le -
 bur - den down. I am climb - ing Ja - cob's
 bur - den down. Ev - 'ry round goes higher and



lu - jah! since I laid my bur - den down.
 bet - ter, since I laid my bur - den down.
 lu - jah!" since I laid my bur - den down.
 lad - der, since I laid my bur - den down.
 high - er, since I laid my bur - den down.

Enclose and seal up the word: **Alleluia!**
 Let it remain in the secret of your heart: **Alleluia!**
 Until the appointed time: **Alleluia!**
 You shall say it with great joy when that day comes: **Alleluia!**

Sing verses 4-5

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN *Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In* (verses 1-3, 6)



1 Oh, when the saints go march-ing in, oh, when the
2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the
3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that
Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that
new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.
num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.

**6. And on that hallelujah day,
And on that hallelujah day,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
On that hallelujah day.**

POSTLUDE *Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In*

Jazz Ensemble

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church

PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman

PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike

PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

MUSICIANS Aine Miller, Suzanne Rauvola, Dennis Paulson, John Sippola and Michael Fuchs, singers; Bob Boman, Randy Lee, Tim Stratioti, Aaron Hallsten, Rich Mowers, Todd Larson, jazz ensemble.

VIDEO TEAM Shania Krause, David Sproat, Sam Weston

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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