



Thursday 6 August 2020

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mount is told in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and Peter refers to it in his Second Epistle. Each time, it is made clear that that is not only the messenger but also the message: God's salvation is for all and Christ is that Saviour. The event pre-figures the resurrection by giving a foretaste of a life lived in glory. And the testimony of the law and the prophets are given to Jesus by the presence of Moses and Elijah.

- All Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymn is a Youtube link. Please hover the mouse over the link, press Ctrl and then return.

HYMN 1 Christ whose glory fills the skies ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

The welcome

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

When Christ appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. As he is pure, all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure.

Therefore, let us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.

**Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for The Transfiguration

Father in heaven,
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem:
give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross
that in the world to come we may see him as he is;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

As I watched, thrones were set in place and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgement and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed. *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Second Letter of St Peter

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. *2 Peter 1:16-19*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Turn your eyes upon Jesus

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now 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.

Just 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. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

They kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Luke 9:28b–36

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

When I read this passage—which is often for it's a favourite—I notice the disciples' behaviour. They've been with Jesus for three years yet until this point they have had no inkling of whom they follow. They know Jesus is a good guy but never seem to see him as anything more. Even their idea that he might be the Messiah hasn't moved beyond an earth-bound *man*. But in today's Gospel reading the disciples see Jesus as *God*.

To a Jewish mind, manifestations of light point clearly to God and His glory. For example, in the beginning, God said, 'Let there be light' and there was. God wasn't creating the Sun for that form of light was created later, on the fourth day: God started with His own Glory. The glory of God looks like a blinding light. St Paul saw a blinding light in the sky when he encountered God on the road to Damascus. Or think of the pillar of fire leading the chosen people through the desert. And in Revelations we read that heaven has no need of light because God is their light.

Today's story is therefore saying that Jesus is God. Incidentally, it also explains why the Creed says that Jesus is, 'light from light.' Before he glowed, the disciples saw only a man—probably a man with dusty feet and sweat on his brow. They only saw his exterior despite knowing how the power of God flowed powerfully through him. Then, the everyday world split in an instant and they saw God. God removes the veil between heaven and earth. Like St Paul, scales fell from their eyes and they saw the spiritual reality.

What I want to know is: How can we see things as they really are, as they are in the spiritual world and not just showing itself in an earth-bound and physical way? How can we see beyond our physical senses?

Before we start, we recognise how this vision of Jesus was given to the disciples as a gift, as an unearned grace. But we see how a clear pattern emerge as we read the story. It comes in three interrelated phases. **Firstly**, the disciples realised that Jesus was God. In the case of the disciples, that realisation was first articulated in the passage immediately before the Transfiguration, when St Peter declared, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.' This realisation is no mere mental exercise: not just our reciting the Creed. It's that gut-wrenching feeling when you

realise your whole world is just about to turn upside and inside out: *we see how this **man** is God, this man **is** God, this man is **God!***

The **second** clue follows the first. Jesus asked his disciples to go wherever he goes. Jesus asks us to trust him so he takes us by routes designed to discern the extent to which we trust him. He rarely follows the usual routes and may ask us to leave our baggage behind. We may need to abandon the emotional crutches that prevent us from being reliable, committed and complete. We're invited to adopt practical and simple ways of growing toward Jesus and of being like Jesus. It's only Christ-like people who can learn a knack of seeing Jesus.

For our **third** clue, we look at the disciples on the mountain. We see their gaze is absolutely captivated by Jesus. They seem unable to look elsewhere. At this stage in their journey, they realise that Jesus is everything; they will do anything to avoid losing sight of him. We may recall the chorus, 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus, and look in his wonderful face ... and the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.' He's giving us the chance to see if they are true.

Jesus led his disciples up a mountain. When there, they realised they could look at Jesus and see God at the same time. From that moment on, they wanted to see more of God—wanted to see God in everything. They made mistakes (of course); they denied him at first; but came back for more. It meant changing their lives and jettisoning the God-less bits. They kept their eyes fixed on him. We call this attitude 'holiness' because (to paraphrase Hebrews 12:14) without holiness, they would never have seen God.

Do we want to see God? Do you want to see Him in situations and in other people? Do you want to grow so the veil between this world and the next grows thin? If so, you must look at Jesus and see that he is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. You must declare that truth in deed as well as in word, and follow him; and you must gaze on him—meditate on his actions, his word, his creation—on *him*. Develop a holy obsession with this Jesus Then—then, we can see God.

Prayers of intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Lord of glory, it is good that we are here. In peace we make our prayer to you. In trust we confirm our faith in you ... Help us to set our faces steadfastly to where you would have us go.

Lord, look with favour.

All Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, look with favour on your Church, proclaiming your beloved Son to the world and listening to the promptings of his Spirit ... May she be renewed in holiness that she may reflect your glory.

Lord, look with favour.

All Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, look with favour on the nations of the world, scarred by hatred, strife and war ... May they be healed by the touch of your hand.

Lord, look with favour.

All Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, look with favour on those in need and distress, suffering as your Son has suffered and waiting for the salvation you promise ... May the day break and Christ the Morning Star bring them the light of his presence.

Lord, look with favour.

All Lord, transfigure and heal.

Lord of glory, it is good if we suffer with you so that we shall be glorified with you. According to your promise bring all Christ's brothers and sisters ... to see him with their own eyes in majesty and to be changed into his likeness from glory to glory. To him be praise, dominion and worship now and for all eternity.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

Christ will transfigure our human body and give it a form like that of his own glorious body. We are the body of Christ. We share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 [Turn your eyes upon Jesus](#) (a different version) [\(click to hear the hymn\)](#)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

HYMN 4 Holiness is your life in me (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Christ Jesus,
the splendour of the Father and the image of his being,
draw you to himself
that you may live in his light and share his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just,
It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For on this day he revealed his glory
before his chosen witnesses
and filled with divine splendour
the human flesh in which he is one with us.
So he prepared his disciples
to bear the scandal of the cross
and showed that in the Church, his body,
the same glory would be fulfilled
that shone forth from him, its head.
And so with joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with St Mary Magdalene and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know
his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**