

2-14-2021 - Worship Guide - Last Epiphany - Transfiguration of Jesus

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.

Welcome

Please have a candle and Communion elements ready for worship.

Confession & Peace*

You share your love with every people;
we draw limits of race and creed.

Messiah have mercy

Messiah have mercy

You immerse yourself in love of life;
we hold back in fear and shame.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

You change the water into wine;
we refuse to let our hearts be moved.

Messiah have mercy

Messiah have mercy

Christ has broken down the dividing wall that made us strangers to one another;
Christ has made us one humanity that God might be all in all;
Christ Jesus is our life, our hope, our peace.

Amen. Let God's Peace flow through us.

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you always.

Song of Praise: #314 Arise, Your Light Has Come!

- 1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

**4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.**

Prayer of the Day*

God of Moses and Elijah, revealed in burning bush and chariot of fire; You speak to us in freedom, your glory escapes our naming:
In Your mercy, dwell with us and lift us beyond all fear and empty worship;
through Jesus Christ, the glory of YHWH. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-12 (Inclusive Version)

When YHWH was about take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. YHWH is sending me to Bethel."

"As YHWH lives, and you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So they departed together for Bethel. 3 The disciples of the prophets in Bethel approached Elisha, asking, "Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "now be silent."

4 Then Elijah spoke, "Stay here, Elisha. YHWH is sending me to Jericho."

And Elisha replied, "As YHWH lives, and as you live, I will not leave you."

So they went to Jericho. 5 The disciples of prophets in Jericho approached Elisha, asking, "Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?"

"Yes, I know," he said, "now be silent."

6 Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. YHWH is sending me to the Jordan."

"As YHWH lives and as you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So the two of them walked on. 7 Fifty disciples of prophets stood off at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry land.

9 Once across, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

Elisha replied, "Let me inherit two-thirds of your spirit," he said.

10 "You ask a difficult thing," Elijah said. "If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not."

11 As they were walking along and chatting with each other, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 12 Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and cavalry of Israel!” And Elisha saw nothing more. Then he took hold of his clothes and tore them apart.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:31-32; 9:1-9 (Inclusive Version)

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. 32 Jesus said these things quite openly.

...

Six days after that, Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.

And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes; 3 the clothes Jesus wore became dazzlingly white—whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.

4 Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and the two were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter spoke to Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!” 6 Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.

7 Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them; and there came a voice from out of the cloud: “This is my Beloved, my Own; listen to this One.” 8 Then suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore—only Jesus.

9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Promised One had risen from the dead. 10 They agreed to this, though they discussed among themselves what “rising from the dead” could mean.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... Thanks be to God

Message

Song: #553 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

**1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,**

till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

- 3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Creed of Epiphany

I believe in God, the creator of the universe,
who spoke, "Let there be light!" and there was light,
setting in motion all of creation and blessing it to this day.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
The light that shines in the darkness;
The darkness cannot overcome it.
He embodied humanity in the image of God,
And suffered for the greater good.
He atoned for our sins
And died on the cross for us,
God's saving grace!

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The guiding light of God in our world.
Through his spirit, God conquers
The darkness of human sin,
Helps people grow and
Become the people they are meant to be.
I believe in the power of transformation,
Here in this world and in the world to come.
Amen.

Offering

- **Text:** to number 833-893-0362 text GIVE
- **Website:** www.slcmv.org and click on GIVE
- **Mail:** Salem, 2529 N. Laventure Rd, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
- THANK YOU to those who have been contributing offerings through one of these methods. If you have not yet made the opportunity to give, every and any amount makes a difference; so please consider submitting your offerings so that we (together) continue to honor God and support Salem's ministry & mission.

Prayers of Intercession

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

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, let us pray.

Mercy becomes You.

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray.

Mercy becomes You.

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

Mercy becomes You.

For all who suffer this day, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray.

Mercy becomes You.

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

Mercy becomes You.

*For what or whom else do the people pray?
(Zoom users: Please unmute or use chat feature to offer your petitions)*

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

Mercy becomes You.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Holy Communion*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

We give thanks to God.

Thank You God for Your grace.

We praise you, God of many names,
whose Spirit runs free through all the earth,
Whose image lies deep in every mortal soul.

In Your grace

Your Word is made known to every people,

calling forth the best they have to offer;

Your Beloved is immersed in the waters of creation

healing the chaos that floods our world;

Your Child is the host who offers new wine

changing hearts grown withered and cold.

Therefore we celebrate the rays of morning light
that bathe the world in glory and kindle a new song:

Holy: #525 You Are Holy

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread,
Raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

Words of Institution

Christ's Prayer (*Inclusive*)

We pray together in the Spirit that Jesus taught:

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.
Given and poured out for you.

Lamb of God: p., 174, Setting 7

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Prayer after Communion*

God of the wedding feast,
we thank you for sharing with us
the abundance of your life:
In the beauty of humility
may we receive with joy
the stranger's gift,
the water's grace,
and the living wine of love's desire.
Amen.

Announcements

Blessing:

May Christ, who draws the nations into God,
teach us to love our enemies;
May Christ, who enters the water of baptism,
lead us to die to all ... but love;
May Christ, who gives new wine for the world,
turn our bitterness into joy;
And the blessing of God +
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be with now and always.
Amen.

Song: #311 Hail to the Lord's Anointed (TUNE: THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION)

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.**

- 2 You come with rescue speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in your sight.**

- 3 You shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is with you in every time and space. Thanks be to God.

Coffee Hour follows after Worship.

Acknowledgements:

Arise, Your Light Has Come! Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

You are Holy, Text & music: Per Harling, b. 1948

Lamb of God, Text & music: Victor Jortack, ELW p. 174, Setting Seven © 1998-2006,

Scripture Readings: The Inclusive Bible, Sheed & Ward; March 2009, ISBN: 9781580512428, Author: Priests for Equality, Imprint: Sheed & Ward. *Used with permission*

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