

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Good to Be Here
February 26 & 27, 2022

AS WE GATHER

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter blurted out that it was good the disciples were there so they could build shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Our being close to our Lord, though, is not good so that we might do something for Him; rather, it is good because we know He has done so much for us. Moses, the greatest prophet according to the reading from Deuteronomy, spoke God's Word, but Jesus is the Word, effecting our forgiveness and salvation in His sacrifice for us. His "departure," as Luke puts it in the Gospel, is literally His exodus, not from slavery in Egypt like Moses, but from sin and death through His sacrifice on the cross. Our Lord is the builder of His "house," the Church. Only because we have been forgiven is it good for us to be here, for as the psalm reminds us, "the Lord our God is holy!"



PRAYER

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord.

OPENING SENTENCES *Hebrews 3:6a; Luke 9:35; Psalm 99:9*

P Christ is faithful over God's house as a son.

C **And we are His house.**

P "This is My Son, My Chosen One;

C **listen to Him!"**

P Exalt the LORD our God,
and worship at His holy mountain;

C **for the LORD our God is holy!**

+ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** +

OPENING HYMN *LSB 901 "OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY"*

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessèd is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!
- 2 Gracious God, I come before Thee;
Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.

To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

4 Thou my faith increase and quicken;
Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

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

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of**

Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

- P Upon this your confession, Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins.
C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 84:1–2, 9, 11; antiphon: v. 4*

- C **Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy, for the Lord our God is holy!**

- P The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The Lord is great in Zion;
He is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise Your great and awesome name!
Holy is He!
The King in His might loves justice.
You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
Exalt the Lord our God; worship at His footstool!
Holy is He!

- C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE *LSB 186*

- C **Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 187*

- P Glory be to God on high:
C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace.

C **Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 34:1–12*

¹Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. ⁴And the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” ⁵So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, ⁶and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. ⁷Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. ⁸And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

⁹And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ¹²and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 99; antiphon: v. 9*

P Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain;

C **for the LORD our God is holy!**

P The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

C **He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**

P The LORD is great in Zion;

C **He is exalted over all the peoples.**

P Let them praise Your great and awesome name!

C **Holy is He!**

P The King in His might loves justice. You have established equity;

C **You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

P Exalt the LORD our God; worship at His footstool!

C **Holy is He!**

P Moses and Aaron were among His priests,
Samuel also was among those who called upon His name.

C **They called to the LORD, and He answered them.
In the pillar of the cloud He spoke to them;**

P they kept His testimonies and the statute that He gave them.

C **O LORD our God, You answered them;
You were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.**

P Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain;

C **for the LORD our God is holy!**

EPISTLE *Hebrews 3:1–6*

¹Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ²who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God’s house. ³For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Psalm 45:2a*

P Alleluia. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips.

ALLELUIA *LSB 190*

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 9:28–36*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 413 “O WONDROUS TYPE! O VISION FAIR”

- 1 O wondrous type! O vision fair
Of glory that the Church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun He glows!
- 2 With Moses and Elijah nigh
The incarnate Lord holds converse high;
And from the cloud the Holy One
Bears record to the only Son.

- 3 With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above
Who joy in God with perfect love.
- 4 And faithful hearts are raised on high
By this great vision's mystery,
For which in joyful strains we raise
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

D 5 O Father, with the eternal Son
And Holy Spirit ever one,
We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace
To see Thy glory face to face.

Text: Sarum Breviary, 1495, Salisbury; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

SERMON “All Glory Be To Jesus” *Hebrews 3:1–6*

Introduction:

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews has to deal with a competition going on among the Hebrew Christians. Many of them were truly deliberating and thinking about forsaking Christ and return to their old Jewish beliefs. You may say there was a competition between Christ and Moses. In reality, it wasn't so much a competition as surrendering to the persecution they were facing as Christians.

The temptation was to return to the traditions and laws of Moses. It seemed that life was better for these Hebrews under the Law. And the writer of this epistle was once again reminding them what they had under Christ.

So, he now takes the hero of faith, Moses, and compares Him to the Savior, Jesus the Christ.

I. He was faithful to Him who appointed Him to be the Christ

Moses was a faithful servant of God. He was reluctant but he did serve in the capacity to which he was appointed. He didn't volunteer to lead Israel out of Egypt. Yet, he finally did as God commanded him. In this way, Moses was a faithful servant.

Jesus also was faithful to the appointment His Father gave Him. He wasn't reluctant. He willingly did as His Father commanded Him. He faithfully delivered God's people. He laid

down His life for them, freed them from the captivity of their sin and graciously leads them to the promise land.

Both were faithful. Jesus was faithful without sin. Therefore He receives the greater glory. It was His life that brought salvation to the world. Moses was just a faithful servant who led.

II. He was faithful to Him as a Son

And that brings us to the greater comparison. Moses was a servant called by God the Father. Jesus was His Son.

A servant works within the house. They can be faithful and worthy of praise and honor for their faithfulness and work. Yet, the Son has greater glory. He owns the house. And in the case of Jesus, He is the builder of the house.

Moses delivered from God the Law of circumcision which was a mark of those belonging to the household of God. Christ now places His Holy Spirit in our hearts as the mark of those who belong to house of God.

Moses served the Son of God, Jesus. Jesus redeemed Moses and all who followed Him. Jesus made Moses a part of the household of God as He has made you and me. Moses could not make anyone a member of the household of God. Jesus does.

And we are to believe and understand that Christ is the One who has made us a part of the household of God. It wasn't an act on our part. It wasn't a moment inspiration moving us to volunteer. We didn't join it. Christ called us through His Word and Baptism to be a part of the household of God. He is the One who washed us clean of our sins, covered us with His holiness and righteousness. He is the One who paid the debt of our sin. He is the One who rose from the dead so that we may have life in Him and rise to life everlasting in His presence. He is the Son of God who has the power and authority to declare who is a part of the household of God. And He has declared you and me a part of the household of God.

Conclusion:

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews shows clearly why Christians are to continue to hold on to the Christ, Jesus, even under the most severe persecutions. He is greater than all the prophets. He is greater than Moses. He is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

T AMEN T

PRAYER

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life.

Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

OFFERTORY *LSB 192*

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN LSB 783 *“TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE” sts. 1, 4, 6*

- 1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79
Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the Church around the world and for all people in their various needs.

Moses was the leader of God’s people as they sojourned from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. O Holy Spirit, raise up people to govern their nation freely and justly. Give them courage to enact laws that protect all who live within their borders. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The Israelites had to deal with the tribes already in the Promised Land. Around the world today, good Lord, guide and protect firefighters, first responders, and all those who go in harm’s way in their communities. Accompany and protect armed forces deployed across the globe wherever nations are in conflict. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The three disciples on the mountain “were heavy with sleep.” Surround people who are tired, poor, sick, or lonely with faith-filled medical personnel, friends, and family who seek to meet their needs. We pray especially for those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*]. Use us

as part of Your answers to their prayers, heavenly Father, to bring about strength, health, security, and companionship. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus, You accompanied the disciples as they returned to the others. Be among Your Church as it gathers anywhere around Word and Sacrament. Bless Your Church and give Your people courage and opportunity to spread the news of Your death for our sins and Your resurrection on the third day for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your gracious hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *196*

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.

HYMN LSB 537 *"BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR"*

1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration

Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Text: Public domain

HYMN LSB 645 “BUILT ON THE ROCK”

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav’n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.
- 3 We are God’s house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ’s sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:

“I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
Text: Public domain

HYMN LSB 621 “LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE”

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav’nly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow’rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.
Text: Public domain

NUNC DIMITTIS *LSB 199*

- C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all
people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING *LSB 200*

- A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.**

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 202*

A Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION *LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA *Luke 9:36*

P Luke writes that after the transfiguration, the three disciples “kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.” Because we know about our Lord’s resurrection, we cannot keep silent, but during the season of Lent, which begins this Wednesday, we shall mute our liturgical praises and refrain from singing our alleluias until our Easter celebration. Let us sing our farewell to that song of gladness now.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE LSB 417 “ALLELUIA, SONG OF GLADNESS”

- 1 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.
- 2 Alleluia, thou resoundest,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother,
All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon’s sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.
- 3 Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluia, our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.
- 4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,
Grant us, blessèd Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter
With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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