



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT – FEBRUARY 27, 2022

READINGS: EXODUS 34:29-35; PSALM 99:1-2, 6-9; SECOND CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:2; LUKE 9:28-36

Organ: Trio Sonata - Johann Ludwig Krebs

Hymn 135, Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

Lord, open our lips. **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
Alleluia. Our God shines in radiant glory; **Come, let us sing our praises. Alleluia.**

Solo: Glory to God in the Highest (Mass of Wisdom) – Steven Janco

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

IN OUR FIRST READING WE HEAR HOW MOSES' FACE SHONE AFTER HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE LORD. WHEN MOSES CAME DOWN FROM MOUNT SINAI AFTER AGAIN RECEIVING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, THE PEOPLE WERE AFRAID TO APPROACH HIM BECAUSE OF THE RADIANCE OF HIS FACE.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

IN PSALM 99 WE HEAR THAT THE HOLY AND MIGHTY LORD REIGNS ON HIGH. GOD SPOKE TO ISRAEL'S LEADERS FROM A PILLAR OF CLOUD AND HAS FORGIVEN THEM AND THEIR MISDEEDS. THE CANTOR SINGS THE REFRAIN; ALL REPEAT, AND SING AS INDICATED:

The LORD is king; 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. **R.**

Moses and Aaron were his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. **R.**

O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy. **R.**

A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians

IN OUR NEW TESTAMENT READING, PAUL CELEBRATES THE FREEDOM AND BOLDNESS THAT COMES TO BELIEVERS THROUGH CHRIST. MOSES VEILED HIS FACE WHEN LEAVING THE LORD'S PRESENCE, BUT NOW THE VEIL IS REMOVED AND OPEN ACCESS IS GIVEN TO GOD IN JESUS.

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

OUR GOSPEL IS THE STORY OF JESUS' TRANSFIGURATION. MOSES AND ELIJAH REPRESENT THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS WHOSE PROMISES JESUS FULFILLS.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

About eight days after Jesus told them that he would suffer and die, he 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 Beloved; listen to him!'

When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Hymn 460, vs. 1, 4 & 5; Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the Scepter, His the Throne

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

Affirmation of Faith – From the Iona Community

We believe in God:

Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was made human in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that can entrap us.

Therefore, though we sometimes are fearful and doubting, we trust in God, and in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves:

**To the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace,
To care for the earth, to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
To live in the freedom of forgiveness, the power of the spirit of Love,
And in the company of the faithful, to be the Church. For the glory of God. Amen.**

A Litany for The Transfiguration

Lord Jesus Christ, God's glory and love shone through you that day on the mountain and you persisted in revealing that glory and love through your words and deeds and through your life of humble service. We hear again these wonderful words of God "You are my Son, the Beloved, listen to him!" We confess again our failure to listen to you; the distractions of our lives and the snares of the world take us from you, and we do not always and everywhere reveal your glory and love.

If we conceal your love because our pursuit of other priorities prevents us from seeing and serving people in need: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your glory because all we reflect is our own self-centeredness: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your truth through our lack of credible witness: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your justice through our failure to empower those who are powerless:

forgive us, Lord.

If we conceal your mercy because of our hard and unforgiving attitudes: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your compassion because of our prejudice and intolerance: **forgive us, Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, cleanse our lives and open our minds and hearts so that we may reveal your glory in and through all we do and say and are. This we pray in your name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Moira Laidlaw, ed. M. Bradley

Holy Communion

Anthem: Transfiguration - Ricky Manilo

Jesus, on the mountain peak, stands alone in glory blazing. Let us, if we dare to speak, join the saints and angels praising. Alleluia. Trembling at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking. All the prophets and the law shout through them their joyful greeting: Alleluia. Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in its thunder, Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Alleluia. Jesus as the Son by name: nations, cry aloud in wonder. Jesus is the chosen one, living hope of every nation, hear and heed him, everyone; sing with earth and all creation: Alleluia.

All things come of thee, O Lord; **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. In Christ you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation and showed him as the light of all peoples. Now that his glory has shone among us, you have renewed our very humanity in his immortal image.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(Hymnal S-125) **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.

After the breaking of the bread:

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice in Christ's eternal glory, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, and with thanksgiving.

All are invited to come forward and receive the Body of Christ.

Those who desire a blessing, please keep your hands folded as a sign to the celebrant.

After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:

Holy God; **We see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. May we who have received him at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. We ask this in his name. Amen.**

Alleluia Closure

Lord God, this day we have recalled those mighty acts whereby you have given us life and immortality, your Son's resurrection and his victory over death and the grave. These branches, carried last Palm Sunday in his name, were signs for us then of the victory that he would win. Grant that their ashes may be a remembrance of our last observance of his most blessed passion and death, that those who are marked with them will be strengthened to walk in their Lenten journey. Sustain us during this holy season and bring us again to welcome the joy of Easter with songs and shouts of "Alleluia!"; for with Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live as one, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us depart in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 123, Alleluia! Song of Gladness, Voice of Joy That Cannot Die

Organ: Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten (Whoever Trusts in God Will Be Protected)

- Johann Sebastian Bach

+

+

+

Our 75th Year!

We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

