

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – FEBRUARY 19, 2023

THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT - TRANSFIGURATION

READINGS: EXODUS 24:12-18; PSALM 99; 2 PETER 1:16-21; MATTHEW 17:1-9

We welcome David Carle as our organist this morning.

Organ: Before Thy Throne I Stand, O God – J.S. Bach

Hymn 135, Songs of Thankfulness and Praise, Jesus Lord to Thee we Raise

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. The Lord's glory shines forth; Come, let us raise our hearts in song. Alleluia.

Leader: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

All: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Leader: To God be glory for ever!

All: To God be glory for ever!

The musical score is written for four parts: Leader, Group 1, Groups 1 and 2, and ALL: (Groups 1, 2 & 3). The music is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!'. The score is divided into four systems. The first system has two staves: the top staff is for the Leader and the bottom staff is for Group 1. The second system has two staves: the top staff is for the Leader and the bottom staff is for Groups 1 and 2. The third system has two staves: the top staff is for the Leader and the bottom staff is for ALL: (Groups 1, 2 & 3). The fourth system has one staff for ALL: (Groups 1, 2 & 3). The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!'. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

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

Almighty God, on the holy mount you revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured.

Mercifully deliver us from the darkness of this world, and change us into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

In the Hebrew scripture lesson, Moses is called up to Mount Sinai, and the glory of the Lord appears. The cloud both hides and reveals the Lord's glory, and the scene suggests the awesome majesty of a volcanic mountain.

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

In Psalm 99, the holy and mighty Lord reigns on high. The choir sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing again as indicated.



The Lord is King; let the people tremble; he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake. The Lord is great in Zion; he is high above all peoples. Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; he is the Holy One. R. "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. "Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; he is the Holy One. R. Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, they called upon the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them. R.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter

This lesson presents the apostle Peter as he recalls his vision of Jesus in majesty on the holy mountain and the heavenly voice that announced this was God's beloved Son.

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 honor 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. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but by men and women, moved by the Holy Spirit, who spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

All stand. The alleluia is sung once by the choir, then sung by everyone.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal staff (treble and bass clef) and a piano accompaniment staff (treble and bass clef). The key signature is D major (two sharps). The chords for the first system are D, A/C#, G2/B, D/A, G, D/F#, Em, A, and D. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The second system has the same chords and lyrics.

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

six days after Jesus told his disciples that he would suffer, die and be raised again, he took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

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

What do we believe?

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Prayer will be offered for our church, our nation, our world; for all in need or want, and for those who have died. The people will be asked to add their own petitions and thanksgivings; the petitions are gathered together with:
God of glory; Transform our lives.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; Most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Hymn 460, vs. 1, 3-5: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the Sceptre, His the Throne

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

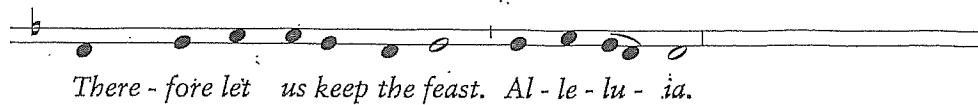
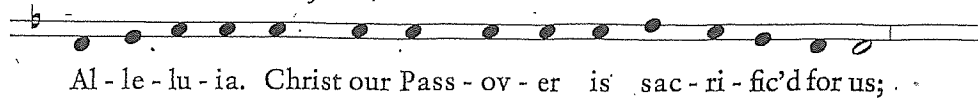
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Creating and liberating God, you called your people into covenant with you and sealed that eternal trust on the mount of Sinai . . . Therefore, we gladly thank you, celebrating your radiant light with angels and archangels and all those who delight in the splendor of your countenance. Joining with them, we echo their praises on earth, singing this hymn that proclaims the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth of your glory, 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, Great Amen, and Lord's Prayer.



May God's peace be with you always. And also with you.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Hymn during Communion: 335, I am the Bread of Life

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 are partakers of 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

Everlasting God, every Sunday we recall 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 of the triumph that was his, and that one day will be ours. Grant that their ashes may be a remembrance of his most blessed passion and death, that those who are marked with them will be strengthened to walk in the way of the cross. Sustain us during this holy season of Lent, so that with shouts of "alleluia" we may welcome the joy of Easter Day; for with Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live as one, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us depart in peace. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 123, Alleluia, Song of Gladness, Voice of Joy that Cannot Die

Organ: Voluntary on the tune "Was Lebet" – Andrew Fletcher

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

20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

313-884-4820 office@stmichaelsgpw.org www.stmichaelsgpw.org