

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
EPIPHANY 8 - CELEBRATING ILLUMINATION
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Reverend John R. Hanson
February 27, 2022, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Julie Hanson, Musician

INTRODUCTION

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus will be unable to avoid reflecting that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. True transformation is never easy, but the alternatives – quick fixes and easy answers – are ultimately even more painful and damaging. May we discover a new vision of Christ the Messiah.

THEME AND VERSE

I thank you, O Lord, with all my heart, I sing your praises. Wonderful is God our father, wonderful is God our redeemer and brother, wonderful is God our counselor. Whenever I call out you answer me, you strengthen my soul. God, you alone are our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection. From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fail. We bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love, and we proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart. (Proverbs 27:19)

HYMN

"God You Spin the Whirling Planets"

TUNE Green # 551

God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.

We, created in your image, would a true reflection be
Of your justice, grace, and mercy and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image, focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward toward your goal.

God, your word is still creating, calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion. Fashion us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

CCLI Song # 3430198 CCLI License # 1713417

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God is good.

All the time.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:39–49

Jesus speaks in story-form to portray the blindness that all people must address in order to bring about a truly confessional faith life. We are to act on our own faults before we can bring about any changes in the world around us.

³⁹He also told them a parable: “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. ⁴¹Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴²Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own

eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

⁴³“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; ⁴⁴for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather together to worship

in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The radiance of Christ shine into those dark, dank cellars of the mind where we entertain negative thoughts and mull over ideas for revenge against those who have hurt us.

Savior Christ, come heal us and transform us! May the radiance of Christ shine in the dark depths of the soul where we bear the burden of sad regrets and the guilt of failed faith and love. Radiant Christ, come heal and transform us!

May the radiance of Christ drive out the darkness of sin and ignorance, release us from servitude of guilt, and renew the fullness of our being for a life of fruitfulness and joy.

Savior Christ, heal us. Radiant Christ, transform us.

We thank you, loving God, for the mercy which leaves no sin untouched, no wild part of the soul unchallenged, and no thirst for true righteousness unsatisfied. From the beginning to end you are grace, mercy and peace.

In the name of Christ Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON

“Who is to Blame?”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we open our eyes and we see Jesus, the light of the world, your light. We open our eyes and we see Moses and Elijah, telling your story. We open our eyes and we see the cloud of your presence assuring us that we do not need to fear. We open our eyes and we see Peter’s plans miss the point. We open our eyes to see Jesus, leading us down, leading us out - to ministry, to people. We open our ears to hear your voice, ‘This is my beloved Son, listen to him!’ And we open our mouths to give you praise. Amen

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Here we find the heart of today's readings, one living by faith is invulnerable to the power of death. For the one who is faithful has been atoned by the sacrificial act of Christ alone. Because of this, then, we are to excel in the work of our Lord.

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the

saying that is written will be fulfilled: Death has been swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

HYMN

“This Little Light of Mine”

Burgundy # 65

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Shine all over the world, I'm gonna let it shine;
Shine all over the world, I'm gonna let it shine;
Shine all over the world, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

CCLI Song # 5001202 CCLI License # 1713417

THE TRANSFIGURATION GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36

The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.

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 while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in

glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now 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. ³³Just 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. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud

came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen listen to him!" ³⁶When 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.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON - *If we put our faith in the works of our own flesh., surely those works will pass away. If we put our faith in the works of the one who saves, they will bring eternal blessings. Epiphany ends with the words of the Hallelujah Chorus: "For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it!"*

HYMN

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Green # 564

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

CCLI Song # 241136 CCLI License # 1713417

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER FOR COMMUNION (2 Corinthians 4:6)

It is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The good news is that we are not only enlightened by the light of Christ, we are cleansed and we are forgiven as believers in him! Thanks be to God for this gift of bread, wine, forgiveness, and a chance to live a new life! Amen.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Go now, and speak of what you have seen of God's glory. Do not cling to the holy moments when heaven overshadows you, but as the Lord lives, listen to Christ and follow him from the places of revelation into the places of mission.

We live and serve in the name of Christ. Amen.

And may God shine the light of glory into your hearts. May Christ be with you and never leave you. And may the Spirit renew the image of God within you. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

Thanks be to God!

Worship, as an action, continues to change.

Use this space to guide your thoughts as the Spirit may lead you.

Use this time to center your distractions in order to help activate your worship.

There are two main facets to the Scriptures this week. The most obvious one is that of Jesus' own transfiguration, which reveals his glory as Messiah, but which also points to the cross – the ultimate glory of Christ. The truth of what the Messianic age means – the fulfilment of the law and the prophets, and the establishment of God's reign among people – is reflected and proclaimed here. The second facet is the transformation of those who encounter God – Moses, Jesus, and then those who believe in Christ. The week then, is a celebration of Christ's transfiguration, but also of ours. And like Christ, our true transformation comes by embracing the way of the cross.

In every life and in every community, we face challenges and struggles that threaten to overwhelm us. Sometimes our response is that of the disciples – to fall asleep, or to check out of life in order to avoid the pain. But the transfiguration offers an alternative in a twofold call. Firstly, we are invited to encounter God anew, and be filled with hope and courage as we meditate on the glory of the incarnate Christ. Secondly, we are invited to open ourselves to our own transfiguration – to be transformed and to begin to reflect God's glory ourselves. Of course, as with Christ, embracing God's glory is also embracing the cross – the suffering of staying awake, and meeting our challenges head on. As we encounter the transfigured Christ again this week, may we refuse the false comfort of quick fixes, and set our minds toward the tough journey of real transformation – in our relationships, our finances, our health, our community's upliftment, and the trajectories of our nation and our world.

John van de Laar at sacredise.com