

February 19th, 2023  
Transfiguration of  
Our Lord / Last  
Sunday after  
Epiphany

GATHERING

**CONFESSION AND  
FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and  
of the Son, and of the Holy  
Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and  
consolation, come to the help of  
your people, turning us from our  
sin to live for you alone. Give us  
the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness, and  
grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot  
free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and  
deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We  
have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our  
neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have  
mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight  
in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and  
for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained  
minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare  
to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



**GATHERING SONG** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW #631)*  
(VV. 1, 3, 4)

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (*ELW P. 139*)

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray... **O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus**

**Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

A reading from Exodus.

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

<sup>12</sup>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.” <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” <sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 2**

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

<sup>1</sup>Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup>**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD’s anointed?**

<sup>3</sup>“Let us break their yoke,” they say; “let us cast off their bonds from us.”

<sup>4</sup>**God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup>**“As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**

<sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, “You are

my son; this day have I begotten you.

**<sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

<sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

**<sup>10</sup>And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

**<sup>12</sup>lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.**

**Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

## **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

A reading from 2 Peter.

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

<sup>16</sup>For 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. <sup>17</sup>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.” <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

## **KIDS MESSAGE**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>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!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. <sup>9</sup>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, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

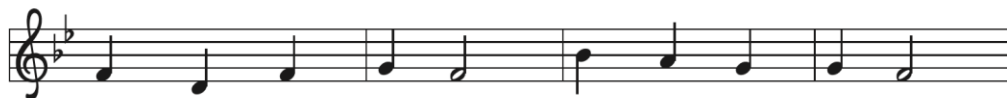
**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Come Now, You Blessed* (ACS #1059) (P. 6)

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father  
almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's  
only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was  
buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand  
of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

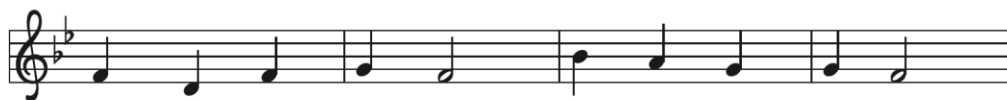
# Come Now, You Blessed



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"  
 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?  
 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,  
 4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.  
 When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?  
 when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,  
 look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,  
 When did we see you sick or in pris - on?  
 when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,  
 then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."  
 What have we done that you call us your own?  
 you cared for me in the small - est of these."  
 love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MATTHEW 25, Emily R. Brink, b. 1940

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## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

**PEACE** ~ The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING SONG** *Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW #186)*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray...**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **MEAL**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **DIALOGUE**

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

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

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

## **COMMUNION SONG**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray...**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have  
refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your  
mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in  
fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

**Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *How Good, Lord, to Be Here! (ELW #315) (VV. 1, 3, 5)*



## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1:00 PM today Lenten Worship practice at FLC
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00 AM WELCA Quilting
- Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00 PM Supper at FLC  
6:30 PM All Confirmation Kids meet with Pastor  
7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service at FLC
- Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Mission Sunday/Installation of Pastor Gretchen Enoch  
9:00 AM Worship at Fisher  
10:00 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship at Bygland

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 19, 2023

### TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

#### A New, Old Covenant

To his disciples and followers, Jesus must have seemed like someone wholly new and unique. His wisdom and power amazed them and left them wondering about his new teachings and extraordinary authority. As Peter, James, and John join Jesus on the mountain, they see yet another new thing as Jesus is transfigured before them. This experience, however, is not disconnected from God's past works: Jesus is accompanied by Moses and Elijah, and the disciples hear the voice of God. Jesus' transfiguration is a new part of the old story of God creating life in the world. As they descend, Jesus points ahead to another unprecedented experience that is to come: his death and resurrection. Change is wrapped up in God's continuity.



Humans are challenged by change, which seems to be even more present in a world defined by instant-communication channels and headline news. Change is particularly difficult when new ideas or experiences upend our long-held beliefs about the world around us. Change can be even more difficult when such experiences push us to rethink what we believe about God. It is easier to hunker down in the comfort of what we have always known than to admit we are wrong and work to think and live differently.

The amazing thing about God's story is that it has always encompassed all of who we are and all of the change we have experienced or ever will. God's grace gathers up everything from the beginning of creation to the promised heavenly feast, and every broken and blessed bit in between, each new covenant consistent with the old. When we gather in confession, we admit that we have been wrong, and we are blessed into newness by the forgiveness found in the words of absolution. The font and table further remind us that God makes all things new, and that God's continuity holds grace-filled space for our beloved transformation.