

Transfiguration

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of Our Lord (Year B)

As Moses and then Jesus ascended the mountain, their faces shone brightly in the presence of God. The disciples of Jesus, just like the Israelites at the bottom of Mount Sinai, experienced a theophany that left them frightened and confused. Paul interpreted the two events as one where hardness of heart was the issue, and the other where the veil of mystery was finally revealed in the salvation of Christ.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

The Glory of the Lord

As Moses descended Mount Sinai with the second set of stone tablets, his face was shining like the sun so that all were afraid to approach him. As Moses instructed the leaders of Israel to follow the Lord's commands that were given on top of the mountain, he covered his face with a veil so they wouldn't be blinded.

Psalm 50:1-6

God Shines Forth

God shines forth over the whole creation, said the psalmist. It is he alone who judges the people because he is the one who put the sun in the sky and the heavens above the earth. He calls to the faithful to gather before him.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6

Hope in Christ Makes Us Bold

Paul told the church in Corinth that in the days of Christ, the veil has been lifted for those who are ministers of the new covenant. The Israelites, he proclaimed, were looking at that which faded away rather than that which in Christ is now permanent. The Gospel is only veiled to those who are perishing.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9

Jesus' Unveiled Divinity

Jesus took John, James, and Peter to a high mountain where his face changed to a bright, shining visage. His clothing also changed in appearance, becoming brighter white than any bleach can manage. Elijah and Moses appeared to the four men, which spurred Peter to suggest the idea of building tents on the mountaintop. At that moment, a voice from the heavens reiterated the words from Jesus' baptism.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White.
- Use the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed.
- There are some poems on the Transfiguration that might inspire the preacher or congregation. One is by Edwin Muir, Scottish poet, aptly titled, "The Transfiguration." One line says, "If it had lasted but another moment it might have held forever!"

Another poem is by contemporary English poet and Anglican priest, Malcolm Guite, "A Sonnet for the Feast of the Transfiguration." In Guite's words, "There were no angels full of eyes and wings, just living glory full of truth and grace."

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies	265	---	873	553	164	164
O One With God the Father	77	---	---	---	---	web
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	315	---	700	631	14	14
O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright	76	---	395	308	129	129
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	526	---	802	834	40	40
Shine, Jesus, Shine	---	651	---	671	---	---
The Lamb's Entrance	---	---	---	---	---	web
Salt and Light are Found in Me	---	---	---	---	---	web
Jesus, the Very Thought of You	316	---	---	---	---	web
Jesus on the Mountain Peak	---	653	415	317	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WO = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and "web" means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Shine, Jesus, Shine
(CCLI# 30426)
I Saw the Light
(CCLI# 45064)
Shine
(CCLI# 4831435)
King of Heaven
(CCLI# 5997804)
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
(CCLI# 7067212)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.