

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020



THE MISSION OF CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
IS TO BE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY;
ACCEPTING AND INVITING ALL PERSONS TO SHARE IN WORSHIP,
WITNESS AND SERVICE; AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN THE WORLD.

Rector's welcome and announcements

Prelude

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Gaël Liardon

The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

The Celebrant then says the Collect for Purity

BCP, pg. 355

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.

People ***Amen.***

The Gloria

BCP, pg. 356

***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.***

***For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

The Collect of the Day

BCP, pg. 213

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The people may be seated.

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

- 1 Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
 Hallelujah!

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians

3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The people stand.

Gospel Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hymn # 81

Text: 15 c. German

Music: har. Michael Praetorius

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:1-18

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

After the Gospel the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Sermon

The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner

The Nicene Creed

BCP, pg. 358

***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.*

The Prayers of the People for the First Sunday after Christmas Day, Year B

Leader: Let us pray to God who has given us the revelation of divine grace and truth through the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

For hearts and minds open to accepting God's gift of the Word, allowing the light of Christ to enkindle our hearts with love, and to bear its message to one another; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For faith, that the garments of salvation and righteousness may clothe us, and bring to our outward actions the inner workings of God's joy in our lives; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of our country and our state, that the light of Christ may illumine their hearts, empowering them to boldly proclaim the truth without fear or deception; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the victims of war, political upheaval, and economic uncertainty, that we may not forget their needs but continually seek ways to offer the assistance that Christ would have us bring; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are limited by illness, living with the uncertainty of debilitating diseases or the darkness of mental despair, that they may continue to call upon the hope of God; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Come and be present with all who are suffering in this time of pandemic; that those who are ill, and those who care for them, may be uplifted and strengthened by the power of your Holy Spirit; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died and for all who are lonely or grieving, that they may remain close to the heart of the Risen One, whose presence knows no end; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church as we move toward the challenges of the future, that we rejoice in the faith of our ancestors and in the ever-present support of our sisters and brothers in this household; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For each of us, that as we enjoy the material blessings of this season, the light and love of Jesus may continually transform us into a spiritual people through whom the Word of God is revealed; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Standing in the midst of the true light that shines upon the face of the universe, let us continue our prayers.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the people and ministry of Trinity / St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Hannibal, and Dawn-Victoria, their Rector; we pray for Deon, our bishop; in our companion Diocese of Lui in South Sudan we pray for Miri-Mududu and Emmanuel, their priest.

We pray for those on our prayer list: ***Karen, Judy, Joey, Sally, Jack, Don, Carl, Dan, Ron, Betty, Rick, Don, Ann, Russ, Carole, John, Paul, Diane, Charlene, Ashley, and Charley.***

We give thanks for anniversaries: Ron & Louise Howden, and Chuck & Sandy Laney.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Adapted from Intercessions Year B: Keyed to the Themes of the Revised Common Lectionary © 2011 by GERALYN WOLF.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP, pg. 360

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. *Amen.***

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

The Officiant says an offertory sentence.

Offertory Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Text and Music: Afro-American Spiritual,
adapt. John W. Work

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

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, pg. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: ***And also with you.***
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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

Celebrant and People

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have

delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

BCP, pg. 364

Celebrant and People

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP, pg. 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then the following is said

*Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Music for Contemplation

Thomas Lee

A Prayer of Thanksgiving *(said by all)*

Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

*Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Let the Heavens Rejoice from the Christmas Oratorio

Camille Saint-Saenz

*Biblical Texts are from The New Revised Standard Version
Liturgical texts are from The Book of Common Prayer
Hymn selections are from The Hymnal 1982 and other approved sources.
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