

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Last Sunday after Epiphany

The Feast of the Transfiguration

February 14, 2021 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist Rite II

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 599

Lift every voice and sing

1 Lift every voice and sing
till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun
of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod,
bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet, with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

out from the gloomy past,
till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light;
keep us for ever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand
may we for ever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

The Celebrant says

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

People *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.*
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*

The Gloria

*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

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 50:1-6

- 1 The God of gods has spoken; *
God has called the earth from the rising of the sun to
its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God is revealed in glory.
- 3 O God, you will come and will not keep silence; *
before you there is a consuming flame,
and round about you is a raging storm.
- 4 You call the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of your people.
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of your cause; *
for you alone are judge.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the 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 Word of the Lord
People *Thanks be to God*

Hymn 129

Christ upon the mountain peak

1. Christ upon the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing;
let us, if we dare to speak,
with the saints and angels praise him.
Alleluia!
2. Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the Law
shout through them their joyful greeting.
Alleluia!
3. Swift the cloud of glory came.
God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as his Son by name!
Nations cry aloud in wonder!
Alleluia!
4. This is God's beloved Son!
Law and prophets fade before him;
first and last and only One,
let creation now adore him!
Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ according
to Mark.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to

Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill

Here we are, once again, at the Last Sunday after Epiphany. We moved away from the Gospel of Mark to hear of Jesus’ birth since the birth narrative is not in that Gospel. We picked up Mark again when we got to Jesus’ baptism and the beginning of his earthly ministry. During Epiphany we have listened to the stories of Jesus calling his disciples who dropped everything to follow him willingly and with excitement. Then, together, they travel on foot around Capernaum and Galilee while Jesus teaches with authority, heals the sick, casts out demons, and prays alone in secluded places to refresh himself in the love of God in order to complete the work God has sent him to do.

In doing my research, I came across a sermon in which the priest talked about the season after Epiphany being a hike up a mountain. We climb from Jesus’ birth to his baptism and on through his ministry until we reach the top, the pinnacle, the story of the Transfiguration. Simon, Andrew, James and John witness Jesus with an otherworldly light shining from within him talking to Moses and Elijah and then hear God’s voice saying “This is my son, the beloved, listen to him.” In my thinking, it can’t get any more spectacular than that. Wow!!! Just like Simon, we all want to stay in that moment so we can live with that feeling all day, every day. But, life doesn’t go

that way. Life is a journey of hills and valleys. After standing on the mountain top, suddenly, the disciples find themselves alone with Jesus – no more Moses, Elijah, or the voice of God - just Jesus. Now it is time to go back down the mountain and resume Jesus’ walk to Jerusalem, the cross and the resurrection. Even that last sentence epitomizes the hills and valleys over and over again. Sometimes the journeys up and down are short, sometimes they are long or seem overlong to us. In either case, we are called to take the journeys and follow along and take Jesus along with us for strength, guidance and comfort.

Starting Wednesday, we enter the season of Lent. It is the journey down the mountain once again to the cross. It is a journey filled with self-examination, fasting, repentance and reinforcing our spiritual relationship with God and with each other. But let us take this journey together with Jesus, the disciples, and with each other knowing that we cannot and must not try to take it alone. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

*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

Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who
are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the
needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Dorsey our Bishop; and
all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in
your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

*Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
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.*

Silence

The Priest, stands and 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.*

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

Hymn Levas 194

Lead me, guide me

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
help me over my weakest hour;
Help me through the darkness thy face to see,
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when satan and sin oppress;
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see;
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then 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 St. Mark and 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,	As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
--	--

People and Celebrant

<i>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</i>	<i>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.</i>
<i>Give us this day our daily bread.</i>	<i>Give us today our daily bread.</i>
<i>And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.</i>	<i>Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.</i>
<i>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.</i>	<i>Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.</i>
<i>For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.</i>	<i>For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.</i>

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

For those unable or unwilling to receive the physical Communion at this time please pray the following with me:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn 324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,

that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts
and minds in the knowledge of God and of God's son Jesus Christ,
our Lord, and the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with
you now and always. Amen.

Hymn 618

Ye watchers and ye holy ones

1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,

raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers,
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Alleluia! alleluia!

2 O higher than the cherubim,
more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Alleluia! alleluia!

3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
all saints triumphant, raise the song,
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Alleluia! alleluia!

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Alleluia! alleluia!

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God*

From *Book of Common Prayer 1979*
Hymns from *Hymnal 1982* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*
Psalm from *The Saint Helena Psalter*

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, North Side, and
The Rev. Don Youse, Jr., M.D.

Altar Candles Given to the Greater Glory of God

In Loving Memory of
Ed Stavas
From Wife Martha

Altar Flowers Given to the Greater Glory of God

In Loving Memory of
The Rev. Charles P. Martin
3rd Anniversary
Perpetual Flowers

Next Week's Readings

Genesis 9:8-17
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15
Psalm 25:1-9

*Sharing Christ's love unconditionally through transformational
worship and service.*