



## MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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February 14, 2021

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Setting 3

Transfiguration of Our Lord

PRELUDE

Vision of the Church Eternal

Olivier Messiaen

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GATHERING

O God of light, love, and glory,

**Reveal your presence to us this day.**

As you did to your servants at the foot of the mountain,

**send your Spirit to show us your story.**

May the brilliance of your face

**illuminate this place as we dare to proclaim your Word**

and may we, your people, be always able to tell the world of your light, love, and glory.

~ written by Stephen Fear

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✚ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

## Golden Breaks the Dawn

*Qing zao qilai kan*

*Qing zao qi - lai kan, hong ri chu tong - fang,*  
 1 Gold - en breaks the dawn, comes the east - ern sun;  
 2 Ho - ly, liv - ing God, keep me safe to - day;  
 3 Give me dai - ly bread, while I do my part;



*xiong - zhuang xiang yong - shi, mei - hao xiang xin - lang;*  
 like a rid - er strong, set the course to run.  
 though I wea - ry plod, make me kind, I pray.  
 bright skies o - ver - head, glad - ness in my heart.



*tian gao fei - niao guo, di kuo ye - hua xiang,*  
 Birds a - bove me fly, flow - ers bloom be - low;  
 Let me guide our youth, hon - or weak and old;  
 Sim - ple wants pro - vide, e - vil let me shun;



*zhao wo qin gong - zuo, Tian - fu you en - guang.*  
 through the earth and sky God's great mer - cies flow.  
 let me serve with truth, and God's love un - fold.  
 Je - sus at my side, till the day is done.

Text: Tzu-chen Chao; para. Frank W. Price, 1885-1974

Music: LE P'ING, Te-ngai Hu

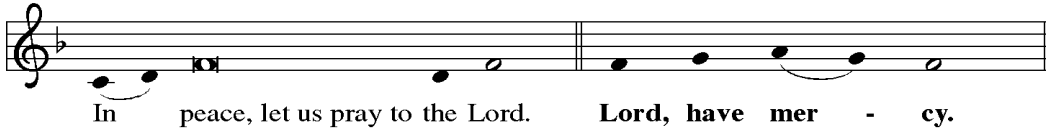
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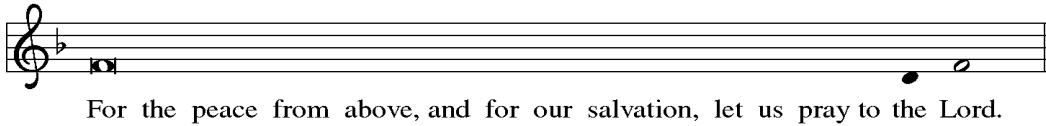
## GREETING

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.

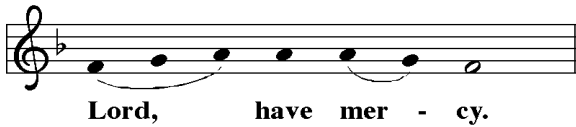
## KYRIE



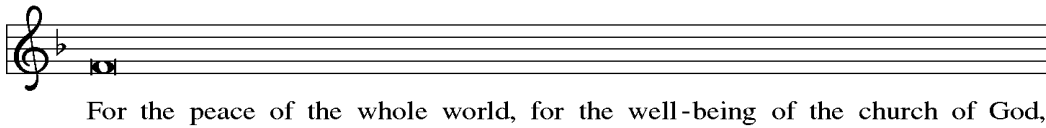
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



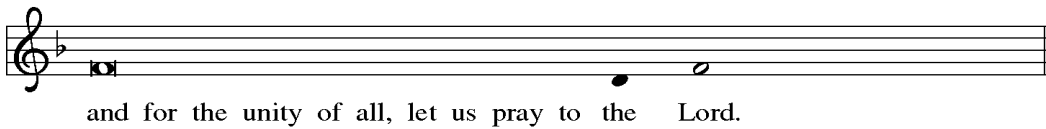
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



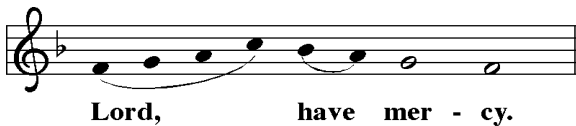
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



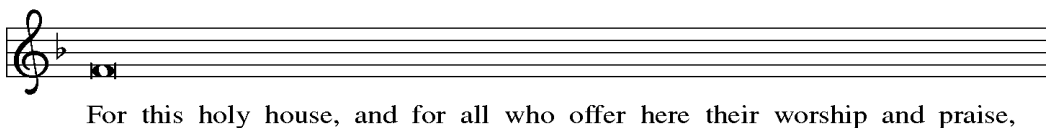
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



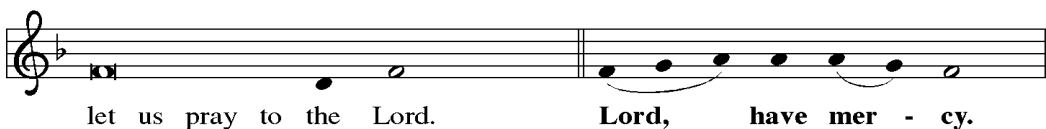
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



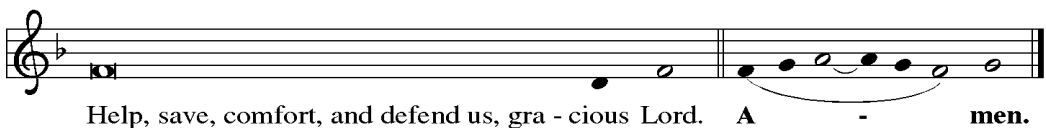
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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."

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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."

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

*Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)*

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken; calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;

with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>"Gather before me my loyal followers,

those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause, for it is God who is judge.**

## Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>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.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

*Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

<sup>2</sup>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, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>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." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

<sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>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.

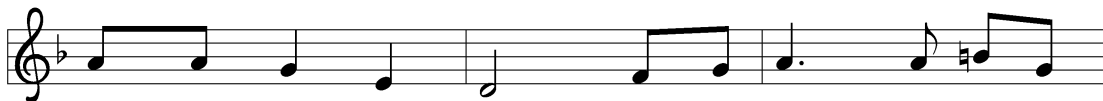
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## SERMON

# Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

## *Lent 4*

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
make us children of your light.  
Give us hearts to live more nearly  
as your gospel shining bright.

## **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.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer this day including Donna, Denise, Bill, Ron, Dawn, Dorothy, Erin, Stephani, Karla, Orin, Danielle, Krista, Betty, Meghan, let us pray that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray. We pray for those serving in the military including: Alex, T.J., Ben, Vicki, Jeremy, Luke, Miranda and Daniel. We pray for seminarian Kaylie Ines, let us pray

**Have mercy, O God.**

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage (*especially missionaries Cyril and Methodius*), that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**PEACE**

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

**OFFERING**



## Offering Prayer

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
 church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Johann Walther

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Messiah Lutheran Church  
 1/31/2021

	Actual Jan-21	Budget Jan-21
Revenue	\$8,807.75	\$12,096.63
Expenses	11,682.31	13,373.69
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$2,874.56	-\$1,277.06
Reserve Balance	\$77,792.07	

## **Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray**

### **Members of Messiah:**

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Ron Wilson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth

### **Friends of Messiah**

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter

### **Serving the U.S.A.**

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child	Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

### **Serving the U.S.A. Overseas**

Luke Hammontree Daniel's grandson

### **Seminary**

Kaylie Ines

**Please pray for all affected by Covid-19:** Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption. We give thanks for vaccinations and a hopeful return to a less stressful lifestyle.

## **WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS**

Ash Wednesday will be this coming Wednesday, February 17.

It marks, of course, the beginning of Lent. Traditionally, we receive ashes on our foreheads as a symbol of repentance, and repentance is at the core of Christian living. (This is the first of Luther's 95 Theses.) During Lent, we each become a "penitent," looking toward the cross as a sign of God's reconciliation with all creation. Ashes appear throughout the Old Testament as a sign of mourning and repentance. They appear as "dust" in Genesis 3:19, linking us to creation and to our own mortality.

Because of the coronavirus, there is new meaning to Ash Wednesday. Signs of impending death are everywhere, which might mean we don't need a special day to remind us of our mortality. The pandemic isn't a punishment for sin, but it has been aided by the sins of "neglect of human need and suffering" and "our lack of concern for those who come after us."

The fact that it is a physical experience makes Ash Wednesday a particularly powerful one. Wearing the cross of ashes means Jesus meeting us and being with us in our body's anxiety and sadness. This season in particular, it can be an invitation to us to talk and grieve with our community, but also to keep in mind that even in the midst of suffering and death, Easter is also a reality.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keep in your prayers **our Council** and the work they will be led to in this next year. Our council members are: Ingrid Pohl, Council President, Kirsten Bruce, Council Vice President, Muriel Gentine, Secretary, Warren Olson, Pari Ford, Mary Lindgren, Robbie Peterson, Becky Anderson, Linda Lewis, Sharon Bruce. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

For this year, 2021, Pastor has chosen a **passage of scripture for each month**. Please use this verse daily for the month. Simply read it, perhaps look at some of the questions with each passage to assist your reflection on its meaning in your life. May the Spirit lead you in the movement of the Word through the passage for each month.

**Daily:** What idea stands out to me in this passage?

Where does this idea connect to what is happening in my life today?

How might I incorporate this idea in my life today?

With whom could I share these thoughts and/or this idea?

### February: Romans 12: 9-17

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;<sup>[b]</sup> do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

How do I define love?

With whom do I enjoy mutual affection? How is this different than genuine love?

Hope, suffering, and prayer are combined here. Do I find them connected in my own life?

Who persecutes me? What blessing would I offer them?

When have I accompanied someone in their joy or weeping?

What is wisdom?

How do I discern what is noble? Do I live nobly?

**FEBRUARY 14, 2021**  
**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**



*Listen to Jesus, the Beloved.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:2-9</b>	<b>Transfiguration of Jesus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2 Kings 2:1-12</b>	<b>Elijah is taken into heaven</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 4:3-6</b>	<b>Proclaiming Jesus as Lord</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalm 51</b>	<b>A prayer for forgiveness</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Genesis 3:17-19</b>	<b>You are dust</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>James 1:19-25</b>	<b>Hearing and doing the word</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 50:1-6</b>	<b>God shines brightly</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:9-15</b>	<b>Temptation of Jesus</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"* **Mark 9:7 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of heavenly glory, like Peter, James, and John, may we see glimpses of your radiance and be encouraged for our life of faith in your Beloved Son. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

God of abundance, we thank you for this food, a beautiful sign of your loving presence and care for us through Christ Jesus, your Beloved Son. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of glory and the Beloved Son of God shine brightly on you today.

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

## WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about an experience that reminded you of God's loving presence.
- When something wonderful happens, do you relate it to your faith? Why or why not?
- How do you think the transfiguration of Jesus made a difference for his disciples?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 9:2-9.

Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Elijah present is a heavenly moment as Jesus and his disciples make their way to Jerusalem, Golgotha, and the empty tomb. And, perhaps, that is what is so valuable and instructive about it. Jesus is headed to rejection, persecution, and a painful and shameful death. In our daily life as sojourners on earth and followers of Jesus, we, too know suffering of various kinds. We need—yes, perhaps even Jesus needed—a reminder that the road of life leads not just to suffering and death but to the fulfillment of God's promise of life and salvation. The heavenly voice that spoke at Jesus' baptism speaks again about Jesus as God's Beloved Son. What is added here is the critical admonition to listen to Jesus. In both Hebrew and Greek, to listen conveys the element of obedience. You listen to the one you are willing to obey, and the one you obey you hear with full attention. As we follow our crucified Lord through life, let us pay attention, listen closely, and seek faithful obedience to Jesus, the one who bestows on us God's heavenly glory. How do you listen closely to Jesus?

*Pray:* **Almighty and everlasting God, may we see glimpses of your glory that day by day we may listen and obey our Lord Jesus Christ with faith and confidence. Amen.**

## SERVICE

In 2 Kings 2:1-12 God passes Elijah's mantle to Elisha. In the Bible God routinely passes on leadership from one person to another, like Abraham to Isaac, Jacob to Joseph, Moses to Joshua, and Elijah to Elisha. Who is someone you can encourage and support as a leader and servant of God this week?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus' clothes became dazzling white. This was an amazing experience for the disciples. Think or talk about experiences you have had where you felt close to God. They are sacred moments. Spend time this week reading the Bible and reflecting on God's word. If you have children, use a children's storybook Bible.

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)