



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

Suggested Hymns

February 11, 2024
Transfiguration Sunday

Announcements

Brown Bag Bible Study begins on February 28. The five-week study will discuss the week's Lenten lessons and aims to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the season's lessons. Bring your lunch to the noon - 1 p.m. gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Drinks will be provided.

Next Trinitarian the next issue of Trinity's newsletter is due out later this month. If you have news, recipes, pictures or even a bad pun, please send it to the church office trinitywlutheran@gmail.com. We'd be happy to share it.

Shrove Pancake Supper is scheduled for 5 - 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 13. Invite your friends and family to this meal before we begin our Lenten journey toward the cross.

Lenten Messy Church is planned for Wednesday, February 21. This is a mid-week alternative worship for families of all types and sizes. Messy Church involves a meal, activities, crafts, a quiet area and a brief worship. Please let Pastor Chris or Donna know if you would like to attend or help with the event.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle, Dorothy, Katie, Margaret, Sharon, Vern.

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Evelyn

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Michelle, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank

Introduction to the day

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

WOV # 788 Glory to God
ELW #599, lord Jesus, think on me
ELW #320 the glory of these 40 days
ELW #605, forgive our sins as we
forgive

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

¹Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah 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. ³The 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."

⁴Elijah 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. ⁵The 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."

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

⁹When 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." ¹⁰He 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." ¹¹As 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. ¹²Elisha 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.

Psalm 50: 1-6

¹The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken;

calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;

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

⁴God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers,

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

⁶The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause, for it is God who is judge.

Second reading:

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

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



Gospel: Mark 9: 2-9

²Six 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, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then 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.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As 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.



Sermon

Ducks hear, disciples listen

I'd like to talk about music for a couple of moments.

The college I attended in the States believed that students should be well-

rounded and exposed to different disciplines. I'm not sure if that's still the case for university students, but the philosophy had some merits.

So, some English majors found themselves taking a couple of science courses ... chemistry was really hard, by the way.

Some business majors received instruction in sculpting ... and some pre-seminary students ended up playing badminton.

I also opted to take a couple of music courses during my final two years.

On Wednesday mornings, I learned how to play the clarinet ... well, that's not entirely accurate ... I learned where the notes are located on the instrument. I also took a course in music history and appreciation.

We'd listen to the work of composers such as John Cage ... who made me wonder if recording barking dogs or two amorous cats would also qualify as music ... and there was Igor Stravinsky.

I was never a fan of classical music ... back then it was on par with disco as far as my musical tastes went.

But I remember the moment when classical music found a place on my playlist as I sat in a classroom listening to Rite of Spring for the first time.

The Rite of Spring accompanied a ballet when it was first performed in Paris in 1913. Stravinsky was all of 31.

The music and the choreography of the ballet was such a dramatic change from the traditional offerings that the

performance was marked by shouts from the audience and fights between different groups of ballet fans.

There was even a riot outside the performance hall after the performance was over. Some people just can't handle change.

Whenever I hear certain pieces of music, I find myself recalling a moment of life when that music could be heard ... when I was with certain friends ... somewhere with Donna ... or doing something with the kids.

It's an emotional response and it's something that I am sure is true of many of us here.

But Stravinsky believed that such a response betrayed the music ... people would allow emotions to overwhelm their understanding of a piece.

Stravinsky once said in an interview:

“To receive music you have to open the ears and wait, ... Some let the ear be present and they make no effort to understand. To listen is an effort, and just to hear is no merit. A duck hears also.”

To Stravinsky, music's true value can only be carried from ear to ear.

Stravinsky said that a person must actively listen ... they must frame their understanding of what they have heard with their knowledge and experience. Listening is essential if the message of a work or a statement is to be properly understood and even acted upon.

The promise of the gospel ... like music ... is best shared ear to ear rather than shared to a mass audience whose individual experiences and circumstances are different.

This morning, Mark tells us that three disciples hear the words, “Listen to him.”

... “Listen to him.”

This morning's passage closes out the season of Epiphany ... the transfiguration provides an opportunity to confirm that we understand the revelation of Jesus' identity ... both human and divine ... before we begin the journey toward the cross and the resurrection.

Like the disciples and the crowds ... we've been given glimpses of Jesus' nature during the lessons of the past few weeks. This morning, we hear an affirmation of that nature in no uncertain terms.

This morning, Jesus, Peter, James and John climb an unnamed mountain.

Mountains are where ... according to the traditions of the time ... heaven and earth meet ... it's sacred ground ... it's a place where God can be found.

While on the mountain the three disciples witness Jesus' clothing become gleaming white ... whiter than anything on earth could make them. Then, they see Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah.

The sight terrified the three, but Peter was aware enough to offer to build booths for them. In his fear and

uncertainty, Peter grabs onto the traditions he knows.

A voice from the clouds makes it clear that the disciples need to take a beat and forget about construction projects.

The voice calls them to recognize Jesus' divinity ... "This is my Son, the Beloved" ... and to give ear to the divine.

It was the same voice that Jesus heard at his baptism by John. This time the voice is also heard by the three who were present.

Mark's transfiguration story is a time when the celebration ... the affirmation ... of Jesus is visible. And through the witness of this scene ... the disciples ... and us here ... have the means to come to know the God we cannot see.

Of course, the disciples don't quite understand what their witnessing.

Jesus instructs the disciples to remain silent about what they have witnessed until after the Son of Man has risen.

It is only through the cross and the resurrection that Jesus' nature can be fully understood and shared.

Life ... scholar Gennifer Benjamin Brooks once wrote ... is lived in the present, but Christian life is lived with the assurance of eternity with Christ. This, she says, is why the instruction to remain silent confuses the disciples ... they think of the present, while Jesus thinks of the cross that lay in the future.

We are about to begin journey to the cross. It is one we make as a community.

It is a journey that calls us into a time of self-reflection ... a time when listening becomes even more important.

It calls us to listen for those times when God's presence is made known.

The voice makes it clear that experiencing Jesus in the world is not just a visual occurrence. Bearing witness involves listening ... even within the whispers of everyday life.

To hear such whispers ... as the prophet Elijah did ... is not a passive activity. Discipleship requires us to be active listeners.

Active listening is honed through prayer ... reflection ... and practice ... keeping ears tuned to both God's call and to the world's cries. Active listening requires us to be personally engaged both with God and the world ... placing our wants and our desires behind the needs of others.

This cannot be done away from the world.

Peter wants to build booths for the prophets on the mountaintop ... a permanent monument at the site of this spiritual experience ... making the location a destination for pilgrims seeking similar transformative experiences.

But doing so would keep experiencing such revelatory spiritual moments separate from the everyday world.

If Peter listens, he will understand that such experiences ... such a recognition of Jesus' divinity ... are not simply an individual matter that occurs off on a mountaintop ... such a recognition are intimate events that occur within the life of the world ... in community with one another.

As we prepare for our Lenten journey, maybe we can ask ourselves, "Have we been hearing or listening?"

Ducks hear, disciples listen.

Disciples are to make God's presence known through love-filled acts. Listening is essential to this ministry ... it is essential if grace is to be truly shared.

It is in grace when the divinity of Jesus is made known.

And it is in grace when we bear witness to God's unconditional love and when that witness calls others to make the effort to hear and to listen, as well.

As we prepare for our Lenten journey toward the cross ... may we hear ... may we understand ... and recognize ... the divine moment of the transfiguration ... when Jesus' nature is affirmed ... and bring that moment out from this place by affirming God's love for the world.

To be agents of grace ... agents of change ... and a means to transform the world.

AMEN

Lord's Prayer

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

Blessing

May the outrageous welcome of our Creator
+ accept and love us for who we are;
may the incarnation of the Word
touch and hold us close;
may the dancing flicker of the rainbow Spirit
help us risk ourselves for love;
and the blessing of God
now and forever.

AMEN

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