

# February 19, 2023

*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

## ***Gathering Hymn***

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ELW#834

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**
  
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
  
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**
  
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

*Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.*

## *Prayer of the Day*

**All: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen**

## *Word*

### ***First Reading:*** Exodus 24:12-18

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

12 The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” 13 So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14 To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

***Psalm:*** Psalm 2

1 Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

**2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against the Lord's anointed?**

3 "Let us break their yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

**4 God whose throne is in heav-en is laughing;  
the Lord holds them in derision.**

5 Then in wrath God speaks to them,  
and in rage fills them with terror.

**6 "As for me, I have anoint-ed my king  
upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

7 Let me announce the decree of the Lord,  
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be-gotten you.

**8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

9 You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

**10 And now, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

11 Submit to the Lord with fear,  
and with trembling bow in worship;

**12 lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.  
Happy are all who take ref-uge in God!**

***Second Reading:*** 2 Peter 1:16-21

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel:*** Matthew 17:1-9

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

1 Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."  
8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. 9  
As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no  
one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the  
dead."

*Hymn of the Day*     "How Good, Lord, to Be Here!"

ELW#315

- 1     How good, Lord, to be here!  
      Your glory fills the night;  
      your face and garments, like the sun,  
      shine with unborrowed light.**
  
- 2     How good, Lord, to be here!  
      your beauty to behold  
      where Moses and Elijah stand,  
      your messengers of old.**
  
- 3     Fulfiller of the past  
      and hope of things to be,  
      we hail your body glorified  
      and our redemption see.**
  
- 4     Before we taste of death,  
      we see your kingdom come;  
      we long to hold the vision bright  
      and make this hill our home.**
  
- 5     How good, Lord, to be here!  
      Yet we may not remain;  
      but since you bid us leave the mount,  
      come with us to the plain.**

*Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.*

- 1 We come to the hungry feast  
hungry for a word of peace.  
To hungry hearts unsatisfied  
the love of God is not denied.  
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
  
- 2 We come to the hungry feast  
hungry for a world released  
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,  
the poor in body, poor in mind.  
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
  
- 3 We come to the hungry feast  
hungry that the hunger cease,  
and knowing, though we eat our fill,  
the hunger will stay with us; still  
we come, we come to the hungry feast.**

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

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### ***Prayers of Intercession***

**A:** Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice (*injustice such as systemic racism, church sanction of colonialism, church protection of sexual abusers may be named*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need.

Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for (*the Martyrs of Japan and*) all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen**

**L:** God of grace,

**C:** Hear our prayer

## *Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all

**C: and also with you**

## *Words of Institution*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

## *Distribution Songs*

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW#471

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW#838

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW#638

*Sending Song*     ”Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW#318

- 1    Alleluia, song of gladness,  
voice of joy that cannot die;  
alleluia is the anthem  
ever dear to choirs on high;  
in the house of God abiding  
thus they sing eternally.**
  
- 2    Alleluia you are sounding,  
true Jerusalem and free;  
alleluia, joyful mother,  
bring us to your jubilee;  
here by Babylon's sad waters  
mourning exiles still are we.**



**3 Alleluia cannot always  
be our song while here below;  
alleluia our transgressions  
make us for a while forgo;  
for the solemn time is coming  
when our tears for sin shall flow.**

**4 In our hymns we pray with longing:  
Grant us, blessed Trinity,  
at the last to keep glad Easter  
with the faithful saints on high;  
there to you forever singing  
alleluia joyfully.**

*Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.*