Transfiguration of Our Lord
Sunday 14 February 2021, 09.30
Advent Lutheran Church
Morgan Hill, California

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.

WELCOME AND PRELUDE  El Shaddai  Michael Card and John Thomson

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.

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.

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.

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.”
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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies next page

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.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.
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.

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.
Praise to you, O Christ.
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE  
Pastor Anita

SERMON  
Heart-full Highs and Lows  
Rev Anita R. Warner

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair

1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of
glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the
moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
Hoo - ly One says, “This is my be - lov - ed Son.”

2 With Mo - ses and É - li - jah nigh the in -
car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the
theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.

3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ
designs to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by
this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and
Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us

Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

... Hear our prayer, O God:
Alleluia! Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Holy God,
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,
proclaiming to us your wisdom
and inviting us to follow your call.
For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,
and revived the brokenhearted.
For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

We worship you, O God.

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word,
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.
For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us,
now and forever. Amen.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father in heaven
    hallowed be your name.
    Your kingdom come,
    your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
    as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
    and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory are yours,
    now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
You may give an offering
Online at www.advent-lutheran.org or
Mailed to Advent Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 607, Morgan Hill, CA 95038

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

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

Flowers for the altar today donated by Christine Walsh in honor of her grandson Logan.