

# Worship in the Home: February 14, 2021

Posted on February 9, 2021 by ELCA Worship



## Worship in the Home

### Transfiguration of Our Lord / Last Sunday after Epiphany, Year B February 14, 2021

*In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While you cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. We offer this brief resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship, you are encouraged to prepare or adapt them locally for your context.*

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.

*Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle and place a bowl of water in remembrance of your baptism. One person may lead this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**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.**

*Then the readings for this day may be read, as follows:*

**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 Elisha 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 Elisha 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 drivers!" But when Elisha could no longer see Elijah, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 50:1-6**

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will<sup>l</sup> not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a<sup>l</sup> raging storm.

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

<sup>5</sup>Gather before me my<sup>l</sup> loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed<sup>l</sup> it with sacrifice."

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: 9:2-9**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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, Jesus 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.**

### **Reflection**

*Having read these readings, think on this:*

In the Gospel according to Mark, the identity of Jesus—who Jesus really is—is repeatedly hidden in a secret. Here, in today's text, after Peter and the others see Jesus in shining clothing talking with Moses and Elijah—the two Old Testament figures who were taken to be with God, the two who stand for all the law and the prophets—and after they hear the very voice of God bearing witness to him, they then see only Jesus—just the man Jesus—and he tells them to say nothing until after the resurrection. Though they do not understand, they will soon enough see him killed, hidden in death. Now, this Sunday, we gather on the day of resurrection. And the hidden truth is to be told openly in our assemblies and in our homes. Mark's Gospel is that truth being told now. In its text, also we hear the voice from the mountain. In the power of the Spirit, the light of Jesus Christ shines in our hearts. What we see is not only the shining Son of God, but the Jesus who has gone to the cross, God with us in our suffering. That is the secret. Acting out of that hidden light we are invited to join Paul in serving others.

*If you have a hymnal, you may now sing or read "How Good, Lord, to Be Here" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 315), "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 631), "Dazzling Presence on the Mountain" (All Creation Sings 917). Selected hymns are provided below for those without a hymnal at home.*

[How Good, Lord, to Be Here!](#)

[Love Divine, All Loves Excelling](#)

[Dazzling Presence on the Mountain](#)

*Then pray these intercessions:*

On this last Sunday after Epiphany, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need, responding to each petition with the phrase, "Alleluia! Amen."

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Alleluia! Amen.**

O God of light, we pray for communities of faith around the globe, for our own congregation, for our pastor(s), and for all Christians who cannot gather for communal worship. Show us your face in the darkness, and speak your word of power to all the faithful.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Alleluia! Amen.**

O Morning Star, we pray for the earth, for life forming in the dark earth and ocean depths, for creatures seen and unseen, and especially for the animals who require cold and ice. Give us your Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of the planet.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Alleluia! Amen.**

O Sun of righteousness, we pray for our nation's elected leaders, for attorneys and juries, and for all who work for justice in our land. Give to them all integrity in service and courage to choose what is right. We pray for our citizenry, that prejudice cease, that resentment about the election wane, and that violence be averted.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Alleluia! Amen.**

Beautiful Savior, we pray for all who suffer from Covid-19, for medical workers, and for all who await the vaccine. We pray for those enduring famine, for those experiencing homelessness, for the people of Yemen, and for all who live in war zones. We pray for all who are ill, for all who receive no medical care, and for those we name here before you: . . . Heal them with your loving might.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Alleluia! Amen.**

Love divine, we pray for those who especially on this Valentine's Day feel lonely, for those who are abandoned, and for those who must live apart from their dear ones, especially for the children separated from their parents at our nation's border. Embrace all who are alone with your care.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Alleluia! Amen.**

Shine, Jesus, shine, also on me, and receive the petitions of my heart.

*A longer period of silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Alleluia! Amen.**

We remember before you all who have died in the faith, especially the missionaries Cyril and Methodius and the reformer Martin Luther, and for those we name here before you. . . . Be with us in our every darkness, until at our end we join with the saints in your everlasting light.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Alleluia! Amen.**

O holy Trinity, Light-Creator, Light of Light begotten, and Light-Revealer, receive our praise and hear our prayers, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*If you have a hymnal, you may now sing or read "Beautiful Savior" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 838), "In Thee Is Gladness" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 867). Selected hymns are provided below for those without a hymnal at home.*

[Beautiful Savior](#)

[In Thee Is Gladness](#)

*Then conclude with these prayers:*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.**

### **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.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. 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, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Then speak the Blessing:*

God the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

**Amen.**

*Many keep the ancient practice of fasting from singing or speaking "alleluia" through the 40 days of Lent. Especially in homes with children, you might consider the practice of "burying" the alleluia at the end of this service, or before Ash Wednesday. This might include singing a song such as "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 318) or another hymn of acclamation with many alleluias. A visible alleluia such as a banner or fabric strips with the word "alleluia" may be buried or hidden in a box. The alleluia should return with great joy at the first alleluias of the Easter season, perhaps at the Vigil of Easter liturgy.*

[Alleluia, song of gladness](#)

**Devotional Music Links:** For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress: "[Hymn to Christ the Light](#);" "[How Good, Lord to Be Here](#);" "[Dazzling Presence on the Mountain](#)."

## Readings for the Week:

**Monday** Psalm 110:1-4. **Tuesday** Job 19:23-27. **Wednesday** ([Ash Wednesday](#)) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. **Thursday** (commemoration of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, 1546) Psalm 25:1-10. **Friday** 2 Timothy 4:1-5. **Saturday** Matthew 9:2-13. **First Sunday in Lent** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

**Daily Prayer Resources** are available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Due to copyright restrictions, we are only able to provide downloadable hymns that are in the public domain and selected hymns for limited use. Other suggestions provided above may be found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. To purchase copies of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *All Creation Sings* for the home, visit the [Augsburg Fortress website](#) or call 1-800-328-4648. Selected hymns from *All Creation Sings* will be provided for limited use.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

Portions from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, *All Creation Sings*, and [sundaysandseasons.com](#) © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Readings from *Readings for the Assembly* © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Citations from the Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations from NRSV Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted and edited with permission by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.

***Thank you to those who clean the Church following worship.***

**Annual Meeting March 14<sup>th</sup> following worship.**

**Special Meeting, April 11<sup>th</sup> following worship.**

**Synod Assembly, 30 April – 2 May.**

***Please keep in your prayers this week:*** Kevin Johnson, Barbara Metzger, Rob Johnson and Steve Lindberg (Streeter Family Friend's & Kin), Noah Klenken (Fred Fixsen's Nephew), Cal Curtis & Patty Thompson (Carole Holten's Son-in-Law & Sister), Bill Warner, David Warner, Emily (Ben & Casey's Daughter), Terry Newgard, Judy Wings, Steve Murdock, Bob Broberg, Carole Holten.

Pastoral Mid-week Message – February 10, 2021

It was Monday, April 8, 1974, and I lived in a suburb of Kansas City. That evening the Dodgers played the Braves in Atlanta, and I watched the game on T.V. Millions did. We were not disappointed.

In the fourth inning, Henry Aaron strode to the batter's box. Ball one. Next came a fastball down the middle. Aaron connected for a 400-foot home run. Number 715, to break the Babe's career record set forty years before, about the time Aaron was born in Mobile, one of eight children in a poor family.

When Henry was 17, he signed with a team in the Negro Leagues, the Indianapolis Clowns. He was with the team on a road trip to Washington, D.C., when he got one of his first lessons in the ugliness of racism in a league where only the ball was white.

"We had breakfast while we were waiting for the rain to stop, and I can still envision sitting with the Clowns in a restaurant behind Griffith Stadium and hearing them break all the plates in the kitchen after we finished eating," Aaron once said.

"What a horrible sound. Even as a kid, the irony of it hit me: here we were in the capital in the land of freedom and equality, and they had to destroy the plates that had touched the forks that had been in the mouths of black men. If dogs had eaten off those plates, they'd have washed them."

In the year or so that Aaron chased the home run record, he received almost a million fan letters. Most wished him well, but some had vile language and threats. He saved some of them.

Henry Louis Aaron died recently at the age of 86. His courage in the face of danger is a lesson to us all. Never, never, never surrender when you are on the Lord's side.

Pastor Bill Sass