

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Transfiguration of Our Lord, Year B

Celebration of Baptism for Ayla Grace Plawa

Introduction

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.

Order of Worship

Our order for worship today is a typical non-communion worship service with the addition of the service of Holy Baptism (Ayla Plawa will be baptized.) The order for baptism falls after the sermon and will be printed as a separate order inserted into the bulletin (blue paper was a good contrast).

Put Order for Holy Baptism (see insert) after the Musical Offering that follows the Sermon.

The Peace will be a little "out of order" for the way we usually experience it. It will follow the Baptism, as it is a fitting end of that rite. The Prayers follow immediately afterwards, when the baptismal party is back at their seats, Pastor at the altar, and the person leading the prayers in place at the lectern.

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.

Readings and Psalm

[2 Kings 2:1-12](#)

Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha

[Mark 9:2-9](#)

Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son

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."

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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

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.

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!”⁸ Suddenly 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.

The Peace (after Order for Baptism this week, instead of after the prayers)

Prayers of Intercession

When you hear, “let us pray” you respond, “**Have mercy, O God.**”

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us pray for Ayla, for all the newly baptized into Christ, for *her* parents and godparents, and for all the baptized everywhere...

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death, let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and your truth, let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church, let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love, let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory, let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, resplendent in glory on the mountain with Jesus:

For the gift of spirit eyes: that you, O God, might sustain those who struggle through periods of dryness, difficulty and grief, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the prayerful work of Grace’s Call Committee and Council, and of pastoral candidates considering calls in this season: that God may be shown forth in and through their work, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For companions on life's journey in this community of Grace, *pause*
for those invisible to us because of quarantining, *pause*
for needs unspoken or covered in shame, *pause*
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 loved ones now at rest, that the memory of their lives, faith, 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.

Blessing

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.

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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