

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Mary Mims, Organist

Processional.....#577 God is Love
Beginning on BCP p. 76

All stand as the Presider greets the people with these words.

Presider: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to my Name, and a pure offering; for my Name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. *Malachi 1:11*

The following Confession of Sin may then be said.

The Confession And Absolution *BCP p. 79*

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter *BCP p. 80*

All stand.

Presider: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Song of Praise.....#S35 Gloria

The Lord has shown forth his glory:
Come let us adore him.

The Psalm

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 his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; *
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 "I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the Lord: *
he said to me, "You are my Son;
this day have I begotten 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 before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him!

First Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

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." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 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."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 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. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a de-

vouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

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. 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." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

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. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand for the hymn.

The Sequence Hymn.....#516 Come down, O love Diving

Third Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 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." 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!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Kent Miller

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The Apostles Creed

Presider and People together, all standing

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

All: 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

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V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect of the Day

Presider: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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A Collect for Sundays

Presider: O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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A Collect for Grace

Presider: Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Prayers for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

Offertory Hymn.....#500 Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid

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The General Thanksgiving

All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and lovingkindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

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A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Presider: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of

your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.
Amen.

Then may be said:

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ. Stay standing for hymn.

Announcements

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Recessional Hymn.....#460 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

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Dismissal

The Presider may then conclude with one of the following

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Presider: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

Presider: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Postlude.....Mary Mims, Organist

This Service's Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Tyler Helm
<i>Preacher</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Reader</i>	Gloria Miller
<i>Greeter</i>	Doc and Karen Cain
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Marilyn Reiger
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Bruce Mims
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Toni Alexander
<i>Organist</i>	Mary Mims

Notes on the Service

Last Sunday in Epiphany

Ex 24:12-18 • Ps 2 • II Peter 1:16-21 • Mtt. 17:1-9

Closing today is the season after-Epiphany with its emphasis on Christ's coming, bringing light to a dark world. This Wednesday a new cycle of seasons will begin observing the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. Concentrating on the Transfiguration, today is a bright door between the two seasons. At the far end of the Lent-Easter season will stand another bright door, Ascension Day.

A 20th century British composition, the collect for Last Epiphany conjoins the seasons of Epiphany and Lent by describing Christ's Transfiguration as a preparation for his suffering to come in Lent and Passiontide.

Ancient numerology crops up Exodus and Matthew. Just as at the creation, so at Sinai, God's work climaxes on the seventh day, when God seals the covenant with Moses; likewise, Jesus' ministry in Galilee climaxes on the seventh day after Peter's confession, when God speaks of Jesus in glory on a mountain. As Moses was forty days with God in the desert, Jesus was forty days with God in the desert; and so too Lent will last forty days.

Psalm 2 is about God's "beloved Son," the anointed one. A king of Judah must have been the newly-anointed one which the pre-exilic psalmist had in mind when some Gentile provinces must have been threatening revolt. With hyperbole, the new king is assured that God will subdue the rebels. Acts (once in a speech attributed to Peter & John) and Hebrews (twice) will lift v 7 out of its context and apply "Thou art my Son; this day" to Jesus.

Like many psalms, Psalm 99 regards Mt Zion as the height where God's glory is now to be found. The One who spoke on Sinai to Moses (Moses called a priest) is the same One now worshiped by priests as Zion's King. Clouds accompany God's presence in all the scripture passages for today, passages also to be used on the Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6.

A book in the style of last testaments of religious leaders, II Peter refers to the Apostle Peter's having personally witnessed Christ's Transfiguration as evidence of his teaching's authenticity, in contrast with the myths in fraudulent 2nd century gnostic writings. "This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased," repeats exactly Matthew's wording of the divine message.

By presenting Jesus' theophany in the company of the two greatest figures of the Old Testament, Matthew signals Jesus is the culmination of the Law (Moses) and of the prophets (Elijah). Like the voice from the cloud at Jesus' baptism, today's voice from the cloud identifies Jesus as God's [true] Son.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina