

FEB. 14, 2010 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus will be unable to avoid reflecting that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see the glory of the Lord in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by the Spirit of God.

*After a moment of silent meditation to prepare ourselves for worship,
we will begin the liturgy.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn to the light of Christ, made bold in the waters of baptism, and filled with the Spirit, we lift up our prayers in confidence that God loves and listens to us.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that it might shine like the sun to people who live in the gloom of this world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of creation; for clean drinking water, unpolluted air, fertile soil, healthy livestock, renewable energy, and for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world; for their leaders, their enemies, their poor, their economies, their use of power, and their willingness to care for their people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need; for families in crisis, for those who struggle to pay their bills, for those addicted, for those abused, and for those who are sick and dying (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this congregation; for the people who live in this community, for the people who go past our doors wishing that they knew you, but never enter. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the blessed dead, those who died as martyrs, those who died at peace, those who died at the hands of others, those who died too young, those who died alone, and those who died serving you (*especially Cyril and Methodius, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Good and gracious God, we ask all these things and whatever else you see that we need with a sure and certain hope in your goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e.. "The First Reading is from..... chapter of, verses" then the text.)

FIRST READING- *Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.*

Exodus 34:29–35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to

come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

PSALM Psalm 99

The LORD is king; let the people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

**The LORD, great in Zion,
is high above all peoples.**

Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;

God is the Holy One.

**O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down before God's footstool;

God is the Holy One.

**Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O LORD,
they called upon you, and you answered them,**

you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's holy hill;

for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

SECOND READING - *In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.*

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL READING** - *The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.*

Luke 9:28—43a

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his

companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.