

**Tuesday 6 August 2024**

# The Transfiguration



The story of the Jesus' Transfiguration on the mount is told in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke; St Peter also refers to it in his Second Epistle. Each time, it is made clear that that is not only the messenger but also the message: God's salvation is for all and Christ is that Saviour. The testimony of the law and the prophets to Jesus are given by the presence of Moses and Elijah; the event also pre-figures the resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory.

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**Image** *Transfiguration* by George Hardy Payne (for a description click [here](#))

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.

Each hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,  
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

**HYMN 1** [Christ whose glory fills the skies](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

## **The welcome**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All**    **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All**    **And also with you.**

## **The Preparation**

**All**    **Almighty God,**  
    **to whom all hearts are open,**  
    **all desires known,**  
    **and from whom no secrets are hidden:**  
    **cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**  
    **by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**  
    **that we may perfectly love you,**  
    **and worthily magnify your holy name;**  
    **through Christ our Lord.**  
    **Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All**    **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

When Christ appears we shall be like him,

because we shall see him as he is.

As he is pure, all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure.

Therefore, let us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

## **The Gloria**

**All** Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect for The Transfiguration**

Father in heaven,  
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured  
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,  
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem:  
give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross  
that in the world to come we may see him as he is;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **First reading**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

As I watched, thrones were set in place and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand, thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgement and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

*Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from the Second Letter of St Peter

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 honour 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. *2 Peter 1:16–19*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 We are walking in the light of God**

[\(click to hear the hymn\)](#)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

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. They kept silent and, in those days, told no one any of the things they had seen. *Luke 9:28b–36*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

Whenever I read this passage—which is often for it's a favourite of mine—I'm always struck by the way these disciples have been with Jesus for three years and have until this point had no inkling of what will follow. They know Jesus as a good guy, but never seem to see him as anything more. Even their idea that he might be the messiah hasn't moved beyond an earth-bound *man*.

In our Gospel reading this morning, the disciples see Jesus as *God*. To a Jewish mind, the manifestation of light—Jesus shining in glory—is a clear pointer to God. For example, in the beginning, God said, 'Let there be light' and there was. It wasn't the Sun, for that form of light was created only on the fourth day. No, God started with His own Glory. The glory of God looks like a blinding light. Look at the story of St Paul from three weeks ago: when he encountered God, what did he see? A blinding light in the sky. This story tells us that Jesus is God, which (incidentally) tells us why we say in the creed that he is, 'light from light.' But before he glowed, the disciples saw only a man—probably a man with dusty feet and sweat on his brow at that. The power of God still flowed powerfully within him, yet they saw only the exterior. Then, in a moment cast aside from reality, the everyday world was split for one instant and they saw God. The veil was thin. Like St Paul, scales fell from their eyes, the blinkers were gone and they saw him. They saw the spiritual reality.

What I want to know is, how can we see things as they really are, as they are in the spiritual world and not just showing itself in this earth-bound world? How can we see beyond our physical senses?

Before we start, we must recognise how this vision of Jesus was given to the disciples as a gift, as a grace. But as we read the story, we see how a clear pattern emerges. It comes in three interrelated phases. **Firstly**, the disciples realised that Jesus was God. In the case of the disciples, that realisation occurred in the passage immediately before the Transfiguration, when St Peter suddenly declared, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.' This realisation is no mere mental exercise: not just our reciting the Creed. It's that gut-wrenching feeling when you realise your whole world is just about to turn upside and inside out: *we see how this man is God, this man is God, this man is God!*

The **second** clue follows from the first. Followers of Jesus must actually *follow* Jesus, that is, follow him wherever he goes, wherever that might be. And this is where people usually draw back. For Jesus rarely follows the usual routes. He wants us to trust him in everything, so he takes us by routes designed to trust him. We might have to leave our baggage behind. The emotional crutches that prevent us from being reliable, committed and complete disciples. It's a matter of seeking to be the people that God wants us to be. 'I'll try to be a better steward of my money; I'll try not to be proud; I'll try not to judge; I'll seek to pray more often, or for longer, or more sincerely.' We are invited to adopt practical and simple ways of growing toward Jesus and, if truth be known, ways of being more like Jesus. And Christ-like people have a knack of seeing Jesus. After all, we're walking away from our old lives and toward a new, better and holy life.

For the **third** clue, we look at the disciples on the mountain. What do we see? As we look at them, we see their gaze is captured—absolutely captivated by Jesus. They seem unable to look elsewhere. At this stage in their journey, they realise that Jesus is everything, and will do anything to avoid losing sight of him. I wonder if you know the chorus, ‘Turn your eyes upon Jesus, and look in his wonderful face ... and the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.’ We see him because we want to and because we’re not letting him out of our sight.

Jesus led his disciples up a mountain. When there, they realised that they could look at Jesus and at the same time they could see God. From that moment on, they wanted to see more of God—wanted to see God in everything. To be sure, they made mistakes, they denied him at first, but came back for more. In order to see God in their lives, they followed Jesus, they went with him into odd places—places they would never have gone before. It meant changing their lives and jettisoning the God-less bits. And they kept their eyes fixed on him. All the time, looking only at Jesus. Without holiness, they would never have seen God.

Do we want to see God? Do you want to see Him in situations and in other people? Do you want to grow so the veil between this world and the next grows thin? If so, you must look at Jesus and see that he is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. You must declare that truth in deed as well as in word ... and follow him; and you must gaze on him—meditate on his actions, his word, his creation—on *him*. And we must develop a holy obsession with this Jesus. Then we *will* see God.

## Prayers of intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Lord of glory, it is good that we are here. In peace we make our prayer to you. In trust we confirm our faith in you ... Help us to set our faces steadfastly to where you would have us go.

Lord, look with favour.

**All Lord, transfigure and heal.**

Lord of glory, look with favour on your Church, proclaiming your beloved Son to the world and listening to the promptings of his Spirit ... May she be renewed in holiness that she may reflect your glory.

Lord, look with favour.

**All Lord, transfigure and heal.**

Lord of glory, look with favour on the nations of the world, scarred by hatred, strife and war ... May they be healed by the touch of your hand.

Lord, look with favour.

**All Lord, transfigure and heal.**

Lord of glory, look with favour on those in need and distress, suffering as your Son has suffered and waiting for the salvation you promise ... May the day break and Christ the Morning Star bring them the light of his presence.

Lord, look with favour.

**All Lord, transfigure and heal.**

Lord of glory, it is good if we suffer with you so that we shall be glorified with you. According to your promise bring all Christ's brothers and sisters ... to see him with their own eyes in majesty and to be changed into his likeness from glory to glory.

To him be praise, dominion and worship now and for all eternity.

Lord, look with favour.

**All Lord, transfigure and heal.**

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## **The peace**

Christ will transfigure our human body and give it a form like that of his own glorious body. We are the body of Christ. We share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

**All And also with you.**

**HYMN 3 Walk in the light**

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

**The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below.**



# The Dismissal

Christ Jesus,  
the splendour of the Father and the image of his being,  
draw you to himself  
that you may live in his light and share his glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All    Amen**

**HYMN 4   Holiness is your life in me**   (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All    In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just,  
It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For on this day he revealed his glory  
before his chosen witnesses  
and filled with divine splendour  
the human flesh in which he is one with us.  
So he prepared his disciples  
to bear the scandal of the cross  
and showed that in the Church, his body,  
the same glory would be fulfilled  
that shone forth from him, its head.  
And so with joyful hearts we echo on earth  
the song of the angels in heaven  
as they praise your glory without end:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St Mary Magdalene and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All**     **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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All**     **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All**     **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All** We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know  
his power to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen

**All** Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.