

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY YEAR C
LUKE 9:28-36, (37-43A)
"ON THE MOUNTAIN TO PRAY"



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(NCH) New Century Hymnal - CCLI LICENSE #11164431

*Please stand if comfortably able.
Respond with words in bold print

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS:

THE BELL IS RUNG:

PRELUDE: "Shine, Jesus, Shine" Graham Kendrick

PENNIES FOR MISSION:

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: The call of the Holy One has brought us together.

P: We have been called to pray and to praise.

L: We are called to worship and to holy wonder.

P: May the light of Love burn brightly in us.

L: May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.

P: May it become a beacon of hope for others.

***INVOCATION:** God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your alive Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.

***HYMN: "Open My Eyes That I May See"**

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth you have for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unlock and set me free.

(Refrain)

Silently now, on bended knee,
Ready I want your will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth you send so clear;
and while the message sounds in my ear,
everything false will disappear.

(Refrain)

Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with children thus to share.

(Refrain)

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Holy God, it has been easy to live with our eyes veiled. Too often, we have hidden from the hard realities within us and around us. We have shielded Your light of Love, instead of sharing it. Something deep within has often

hardened our hearts, leading to inertia and unfreedom. But there is a deeper longing within. We hunger for the forgiveness and renewal You revealed in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Holy One, and unveil our eyes and our hearts. With Your shining love, light a path of forgiveness for us that we may share it with others. By this, we may know the freedom of new life you revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE:**

Hear the good news! Do not lose heart! God is merciful. Bit by bit, we are being transformed into the image of God's glory made known in Jesus Christ. In our turning, God has forgiven us and unveiled our lives. God has also called us to listen to Jesus Christ, the Beloved, who calls us by the same name. Beloved, may the forgiving light of God's love shine through us, and bear the hope of a new beginning to others. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***GLORIA:**

Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so near. As it was from the start so it shall be forever, One God always here. (repeat twice) (end) One God always here. One God always here.

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Exodus 34:29-35
Moses' brightly shining face**

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two covenant tablets in his hand, Moses didn't realize that the skin of his face shone brightly because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw the skin of Moses' face shining brightly, they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called them closer. So Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² After that, all the Israelites came near as well, and Moses commanded them everything that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴ Whenever Moses went into the Lord's presence to speak with him, Moses would take the veil off until he came out again. When Moses came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see that the skin of Moses' face was shining brightly. So Moses would put the veil on his face again until the next time he went in to speak with the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 99 Page 687

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

¹² So, since we have such a hope, we act with great confidence. ¹³ We aren't like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the Israelites couldn't watch the end of what was fading away. ¹⁴ But their minds were closed.

Right up to the present day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. The veil is not removed because it is taken away by Christ. ¹⁵ Even today, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever someone turns back to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ All of us are looking with unveiled faces at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

⁴ This is why we don't get discouraged, given that we received this ministry in the same way that we received God's mercy. ² Instead, we reject secrecy and shameful actions. We don't use deception, and we don't tamper with God's word. Instead, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God by the public announcement of the truth.

***GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 9:28-43a**

*These are the ancient words revealed to us anew.
Thanks be to God.*

Jesus transformed

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes flashed white like lightning. ³⁰ Two

men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him. ³¹ They were clothed with heavenly splendor and spoke about Jesus' departure, which he would achieve in Jerusalem. ³² Peter and those with him were almost overcome by sleep, but they managed to stay awake and saw his glory as well as the two men with him. ³³ As the two men were about to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it's good that we're here. We should construct three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—but he didn't know what he was saying. ³⁴ Peter was still speaking when a cloud overshadowed them. As they entered the cloud, they were overcome with awe. ³⁵ Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!" ³⁶ Even as the voice spoke, Jesus was found alone. They were speechless and at the time told no one what they had seen.

Jesus heals a boy

³⁷ The next day, when Jesus, Peter, John, and James had come down from the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus. ³⁸ A man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to take a look at my son, my only child. ³⁹ Look, a spirit seizes him and, without any warning, he screams. It shakes him and causes him to foam at the mouth. It tortures him and rarely leaves him alone. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to throw it out, but they couldn't."

⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and crooked generation, how long will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was coming, the demon threw him down and shook him violently. Jesus spoke harshly to the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ Everyone was overwhelmed by God's greatness.

MESSAGE: "It all started with prayer"

The season of Epiphany, which began with the visit of the Wise Men, concludes with the Transfiguration of Jesus. That and its companion story the baptism of Jesus in Luke chapter 3, are the foundation for the Christian celebration of the revelation of the Son of God to the world. The story of the Transfiguration is written in Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Both Luke and Matthew locate this story immediately after the confession of Simon Peter and the introduction of the passion into the teaching of Jesus. The word "passion" means a strong and barely controllable emotion: it is also means the suffering and death of Jesus.

Hardly any passage in the Gospels has prompted interpretations as widely divergent as has this one. Many scholars are still arguing over where this took place; Mount Tabor or Mount Herman. However, no matter the answer to some of those types of questions, this particular story of the Transfiguration is Luke's interpretation, and these Lucan accents are important. Instead of "six days

later” as written in Mark 9, Luke says, “about eight days”. Possibly Luke is tying the story to the resurrection, which occurred on the eighth day, the day after the sabbath, or he may be reflecting the use of this account in Christian worship, which was held on the eighth day.

In verse 29 Luke says that this transfiguration event occurred while Jesus was praying. Luke said earlier (verse 18) that Jesus was praying when he asked the questions that led to Peter’s confession and the first teaching about his coming death. And even earlier, after Jesus’ baptism, Luke says that it was while Jesus was in prayer that he received the Holy Spirit and the voice of divine approval (3:21-22). The major events and critical moments in the life of Jesus were, according to Luke, marked by prayer.

Let’s stop a minute and think about this. It appears Jesus was a multi-tasker. How could something as important as the Transfiguration and talking with God not be as he concentrated on something outside the prayer he was saying to himself. Do you think this is something we should learn? What can we learn from this? Are we to be “in pray” most of the hours we are awake? What would that look like.? Would more and better blessings come to us if we prayed continuously? Is it possible to pray too much or too hard? What is prayer, anyway? Prayer is talking to God. Are we disturbing hi with our constant prayers? I don’t think so. God is always willing to listen.

He wasn’t to hear from each and all of us. Look at what happened when Jesus did that?

SPECIAL MUSIC: “My Hope is Built”

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY:

On the Mount of Transfiguration, the law of love and the prophecy of holy peace joined each other in Jesus as he prayed. God’s generous love bore a radiant flash, kissing earth with heavenly light. So, the heart of God was revealed in Jesus, and a call was extended. It was the call to listen to Jesus and love generously like him. So we are invited to taste heavenly joy as we generously share the gifts we have received from the One who has born us into life. In this spirit, may we bring our gifts to the one who transfigures everything with love.

OFFERTORY: “Holy Ground” Geron Davis

DOXOLOGY: 785 “We Give You but your Own”

**We give you but your own,
whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

HOLY COMMUNION:

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

One: Darkness covers the mountain of God. Come to Christ's table and behold the glory of the Lord.

Many: Here we touch the mystery of faith.

One: Christ stands transfigured with Moses and Elijah. Come to Christ's table and bathe in the light of God

Many: Here we encounter the awe of sheer Presence.

One: God's voice breaks through our veil of isolation. Come to Christ's table and dine as God's beloved.

Many: Here we discover our true home and family.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Come to the mountain of the Lord.

We come to see God's glory.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Out of nothing you created all that is – mighty mountains and quiet lakes. Out of dust, you formed us in your image, and breathed into us the breath of life. You called us again and again to your holy

mountain, to worship you and to praise your holy name. You led your people to Mount Sinai, giving your commandments, and creating a covenant people to bless the whole world. When we strayed and lost our way in the wilderness of life, you led us as a pillar of light. You fed us with the bread of life, and nourished us with the law and the teachings of your prophets.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light that guides us. From mighty mountains, he shone with your glory. From quiet lakesides, he preached your word and taught us your ways. With gentle hands offering healing, and with harsh words demanding justice, Jesus invited all people to live in your love and to walk in your light. Into this covenant community, we have come to be your people, and to praise your name.

And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, singing,

**790 Holy, Holy, holy God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our
God! Hosanna in the highest!**

COMMUNION PRAYER:

Light of the world, in Jesus, You revealed Your will and way. Through his broken body, You broke open our sense of what is possible even in death. Through his lifeblood poured out, You showed that nothing can interrupt Your life-giving pulse at work in all creation. In Christ, You joined all things seen and unseen, kissing the earth with heavenly grace and peace. By this, You revealed resurrection's resistance to death's claim as the final word. Instead, Your Word of Love bears an ever-new beginning. Now, pour out Your Spirit anew on these elements and on us that we all may be blessed with Your shining grace, joined with one another, and held in Your holy embrace. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

We give thanks , almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "The Summons"

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and
never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and
never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you

and you in me.

BENEDICTION:

May the Holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life.

May it be a light that bears joy and hope and love.

May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart. And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world.

Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

THE BELL IS RUNG:

POSTLUDE: "With Sounding Brass" Chester Nordman