

# THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Eyewitness to Glory

Elijah, the Shadow Man

February 14, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

There is nothing quite like being an eyewitness, giving a special perspective to share on the event. Peter writes about being on the Mount of Transfiguration as he, James, and John were privileged to have a special vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. He states: “We were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,’ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain” (2 Peter 1:16b–18). Today, through the words of Scripture, we, too, become eyewitnesses and are given a glimpse of glory in the vision of our transfigured Lord! Although many travelers to the Holy Land focus their visits on biblical sites located in Israel, there are many noteworthy sacred locations in today’s nation of Jordan, on the east side of the Jordan River. Two of these sites are the site called Tell Mar Elias, by tradition the place where the prophet Elijah was born, and Elijah’s Hill, near the Jordan River location of Jesus’ Baptism, where it is said that Elijah ascended to heaven in the whirlwind. Both sites were the location of notable Christian churches centuries ago. Elijah has long been remembered and honored by Christian people as a precursor to Jesus and an important historical figure of faith. Yet Elijah was a human being—just like us. His presence on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus and Moses reminds us of what is to come for us humans by God’s grace for the sake of our glorious and glorified Lord Jesus Christ.

## ✂ PREPARATION ✂

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

O Still Speaking God, throughout history and the wide world you have gathered people around your Word to instruct and inspire. We give thanks for all who have received your vision and shaped diverse and faithful communities to follow in your Way. Continue to open that vision to us, that we may become transformed by the renewing of your Word in our hearts. Enable us to grow in love and understanding for each other. Create in us, O God, clean hearts and minds; Oh Lord, You call us to go to the mountain top with you and we follow, not quite sure of what is to happen, but we like mountain tops, we like the view from up here, we like mountain top experiences. Lord sometimes we need

mountain top experiences with you when our days are dark and dreary, when our hearts, are heavy, when the valleys seem more depressing than ever. Lord, may this mountain top experience fill our hearts with your light, may we be filled with your love, and may we be filled with hope. Lord, we are aware, that just as Moses and your disciples were changed by their experiences that we too are changed and transformed into the image of Christ by your mercy. Lord, may we have unveiled faces that reflect your love, your hope, and your light. O God who is both compassion and power, receive from us this hour all the praise, the thanksgiving, the love we are able to return to you. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

### **WELCOME:**

**WELCOME TO Bethel Lutheran Church.....**Today we are celebrating the holy light that illuminated Jesus. We celebrate his transfiguration on the mountain. As we prepare for the season of Lent, we spend a moment on a mount where Jesus shows us hope as He visits with two people who by our standards have long departed this world: Moses and Elijah. He shows us that what is waiting for us at the end of the season of Lent is the celebration of Easter. May God bless you with His Word and so you can experience the peace and promise of His presence and know the purpose and power of His plan for you and know what we do today is our history- making process! Let us worship from the mountain and hear again “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Lord, we listen today! Welcome!

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

### **INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

### **OPENING SENTENCES** *Isaiah 30:15, 18, 29*

**Pastor:** For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,

**People:** “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

**Pastor:** Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.

**People:** **For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him.**

**Pastor:** You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept,

**People:** and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

**HYMN “Go Down Moses” Sts. 1-2**

1 When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go; oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.

Refrain:

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go!

2 The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go; to lead the childr'n of Israel through, let my people go. [Refrain]

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: O God, our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

**People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not always brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

**People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We repent of all that is sinful in our lives, both that which we know and those things unknown to us that are against Your righteous laws.

**People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

**People: Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, before Your Son turned His face to Jerusalem and Mount Calvary, on another mountain You revealed His glory as He appeared with Moses and Elijah. Sustain Your Church both by His glory and also by Your grace, and help us to reflect the glory of Your love to all; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE DAY**

Reader 1: On February 14, we commemorate Valentine, Martyr. The word “martyr” reminds us that Valentine died for confessing his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. For eighteen hundred years, Valentine’s faithful witness has inspired Christian people to faith-filled words and loving deeds.

Reader 2: A physician and priest in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius, Valentine lived in a time when Christians were harshly persecuted because of their religion. Arrested by Roman authorities, he received a death sentence.

Reader 1: Tradition suggests that while Valentine was waiting in prison for his day of execution, he developed a friendship with the young daughter of his jailer. He told the girl about Jesus and shared his hope of heaven. On the day of his execution, he left her a note cut into a special shape. Written inside was a message of affection and encouragement. He signed the letter “your Valentine,” beginning a tradition that has changed and grown through the centuries.

Reader 2: Love for Christ and love in Christ shaped the actions of Valentine. On Valentine’s Day, it is good to reflect on what that love is like. Together we sing the hymn “God Loved The World So That He Gave.”

## **HYMN “God Loved The World So That He Gave” St. 1**

1 God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save, That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord of love, bless our remembering of the saints of ages past, including

Your servant Valentine. Help us proclaim Your love in our day in word and deed as we look forward to the great reunion with all of the saints in Your heavenly kingdom. We pray in Jesus' name.

**People:** Amen.

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

becomes *Exodus 34:29–35* (Moses speaks with the Lord, and his face radiant.)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

**EPISTLE** *2 Corinthians 3:12–13 (14–18); 4:1–6* (Paul writes of God's people being transformed.)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *Psalms 117:1–2a; 96:8*

**People:** **Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 9:2–9* (Jesus is transfigured on a high mountaintop.)

**Leader:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

**Leader:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

## SERMON

SOLO

Ms. Angela Henderson

### (We Bring Out Tithes and Offering To The Lord)

#### CATECHISM *The First Article*

Leader: As we declare our faith in God the Father, we affirm our trust in His plan for us as His children to grant us life and to place us into vocations through which we can serve Him and our neighbors. We speak the words of this article of the Apostles' Creed followed by the explanation.

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

**He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.**

**He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.**

**This is most certainly true.**

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *LSB, p. 215*

Leader: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*, and] all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA** *Ecclesiastes 3:1–4, 7*

Reader 1: This week with Ash Wednesday, we begin our observance of Lent. To highlight the penitential nature of the season, it is the Church's custom to suspend the use of the word "Alleluia," which means "Praise the Lord." A tradition has been in place since the fifth century not to use the joyful

word “Alleluia” in worship from the conclusion of worship on the final Sunday before Lent, which is today, until the first service on Easter Sunday. The text of our closing hymn, “Alleluia, Song of Gladness,” dates back to the eleventh century and links us to a millennium of God’s people at worship. We now repeat words from the Book of Ecclesiastes, which remind us that there are appropriate times for all things, including a time to keep silence, which we will observe regarding use of the “Alleluia” throughout Lent.

**Pastor:** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

**People:** **a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

**Pastor:** a time to break down, and a time to build up;

**People:** **a time to weep, and a time to laugh;**

**Pastor:** a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

**People:** **a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.**

**Pastor:** As part of our observance of a holy Lent as it begins this week, we now say farewell to Alleluia until the time of our rejoicing anew at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

**People:** **Alleluia! Amen.**

## **BENEDICAMUS**

**Pastor:** Let us bless the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **HYMN “Glory, Glory, Hallelujah” TFBF 148**

1 Glory, glory, hallelujah! since I laid my burden down. Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
since I laid my burden down.

2 I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. I feel better, so much better,  
since I laid my burden down.



3 Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burden down. Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burden down.

4 I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burden down. I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burdens down.

5 Ev'ry round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burden down. Ev'ry round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burden down.

## Black History Moment



### **Maggie Lena Walker**

(July 15, 1864 – December 15, 1934) was an African American businesswoman and teacher. Walker was the first African-American woman to charter a bank and serve as its president in the United States.

In 1903, Maggie L. Walker became both the first African American woman to charter a bank, and the first African American woman to serve as a bank president). As a leader, Walker achieved successes with the vision to make tangible improvements in the way of life for African Americans.

Disabled by paralysis and a wheelchair user later in life, Walker also became an example for people with disabilities.