

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761

February 14, 2021

9:00 AM

TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD



The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Morning Has Broken”

arr. Brandt Adams
Patricia Ritchie, *cello*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—

our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.

We turn inward, failing to follow

your outward way of love.

We distrust those who are not like us.

We exploit the earth and its resources

and fail to consider generations to come.

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;

receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P How vast is God’s grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God’s own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God’s forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace.

C Amen.

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain

**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Text © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty God,
- C** the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

2 King 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “*Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.*” But he said, “*As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.*” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “*Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.*” Elisha said, “*Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.*” ¹⁰He responded, “*You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.*” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “*Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!*” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 50:1-6 (*read responsively*)

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

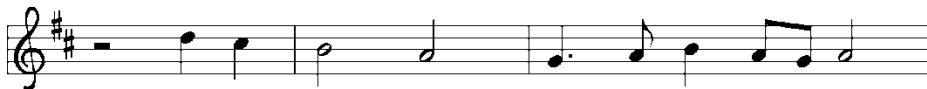
Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “*Let light shine out of darkness,*” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "*Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.*" ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "*This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!*" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God of Mercy, God of Light”

ELW 714

- 1 O God of mercy, God of light,
in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight,
to live our lives in you.
- 2 You sent your Son to die for all,
that our lost world might hear your call;
oh, hear us lest we stray and fall!
We rest our hope in you.
- 3 Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:
to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought
may work a work for you.
- 4 For all are kindred, far and wide,
since Jesus Christ for all has died;
grant us the will, and grace provide,
to love them all in you.
- 5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.
- 6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 C hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Esther Riha

Thanksgiving: for the birth of Elsie Doralyn Holcombe, great-granddaughter of Tom Holcombe

Illness: Lois Andresen, Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Don Burton, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Gerald Klonglan, father of Jason Klonglan, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Judy Ryan, Al Schewe, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, John Waterman, Darlene White, Robert Whitehead

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Josh Kropenske, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C** And also with you.

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.

MEAL



(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“The Water Is Wide”

arr. Brant Adams
Patricia Ritchie, *cello*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** O God,
C receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

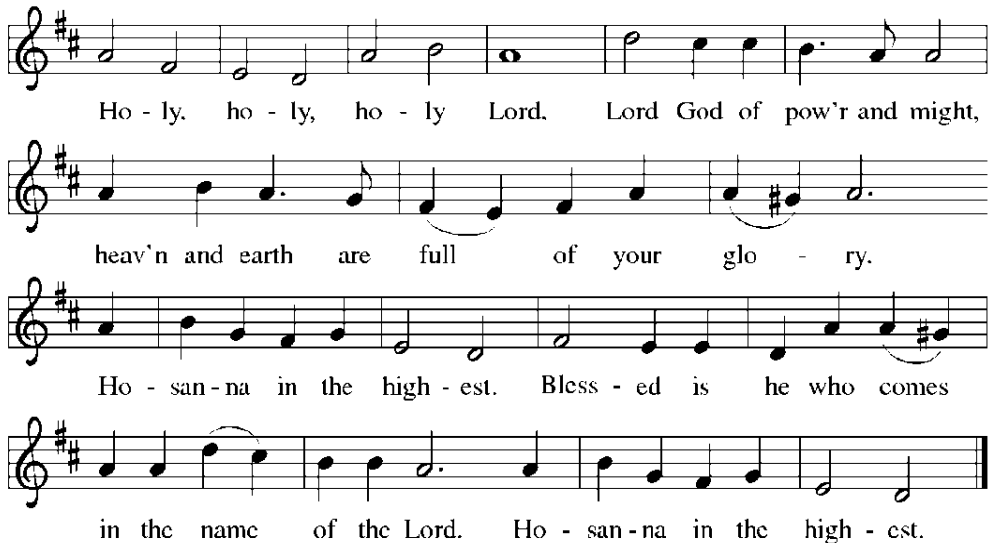
HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ Holy Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.

- ☑ Come and be fed.

DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

(sit)

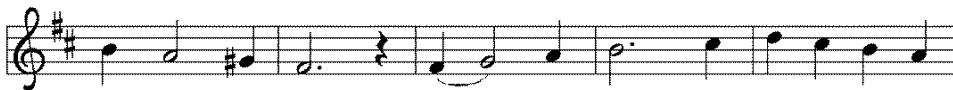
AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr. Kurt Kaiser
Patricia Ritchie, *cello*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

**1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

**3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

Refrain

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain***

**2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain***

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Christ Jesus,
- C** **at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** God, the creator strengthen you; Jesus, the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

- P** We are an Easter people.
- C** **And Alleluia is our song.**

- P** Alleluia! Alleluia!
- C** **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

- P** The author of Ecclesiastes writes: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die.
- C** **A time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted.**

- P** A time to break down and a time to build up.
- C** **A time to weep and a time to laugh.**

- P** A time to mourn and a time to dance.
- C** **A time to keep silence and a time to speak.**

- P** As a sign of our repentance, we now say Farewell to the Alleluia until our rejoicing at the resurrection of our Lord. How good is it for us to be here.
- C** **Amen! Alleluia!**



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Be the light of Jesus Christ.
- ☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

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Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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February 13 & 14, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM;

9:00 - 11:00 AM;

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Our Pantry will be closed on Monday, February 15

for President's Day

The Food Pantry is greatly in need of volunteers that can work 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM. This is when we get our deliveries and the heavy lifting is done. We are moving approximately 10,000 pounds of food each week. We still need volunteers to carry out food to the cars of our guests. We have shopping carts to assist the volunteers, so you only have to lift into and out of the cart. You will be paid handsomely with coffee and Barb's cookies! Please consider helping them out by volunteering at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Youth Summer Trip

Summer Trip Planning is continuing to take place. Let us know of your interest so you can be informed about our plans. An email to Pastor Shari (shari@kmlchurch.org) will greatly help in the planning.

Register for Summer Camp!

Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/schedule> to register. Note: all deposits are fully refundable for the 2021 summer camp season. All summer camp registrations are done on a secure online registration site called UltraCamp. Directions for registration will be on the camp website.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 10

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 39

Total: 49

Online Attendance: 167

Pantry Guests Served: 844

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 26

Offering:

\$39,345.00 (Regular) \$3,378.96 (Specials)

\$9,757.00 (Debt Reduction)

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Tom Holcombe in honor of his great-granddaughter, Elsie Doralyn Holcombe, born February 9, 2021; in memory of Pauline Brager by Don Zinnecker & Susie Henry

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Robert & Pat Ranney in memory of Pat's sister, Jean

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Dirk & Jan Petersen in memory of Jan's father, Frank A Korblick

Official Notice

Annual Meeting—Sunday, February 14

10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

(& the Fellowship Hall if needed)

Meeting ID: 956 9122 5496

Passcode: 123456

The Annual Meeting will be held in-person and will also be live-streamed and zoomed. If

you have questions regarding the budget please e-mail them to our treasurer, Tim Backora (tbackora@cox.net) or to Pastor Olaf (olaf@kmlchurch.org).



Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as our Kountze Facebook Page.

Youth Forum

In-Person & Zoom on Sundays, 10:15 - 11:00 AM

All 9th – 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday, we will meet in person and attend the Congregational Annual Meeting together.

We will meet in person in the fellowship Lounge and on Zoom again next Sunday.

Listen to Jesus, the Beloved.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	2 Kings 2:1-12	Elijah is taken into heaven
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Proclaiming Jesus as Lord
Wednesday	Psalms 51	A prayer for forgiveness
Thursday	Genesis 3:17-19	You are dust
Friday	James 1:19-25	Hearing and doing the word
Saturday	Psalms 50:1-6	God shines brightly
Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus



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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Mark 9:7 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of heavenly glory, like Peter, James, and John, may we see glimpses of your radiance and be encouraged for our life of faith in your Beloved Son. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, we thank you for this food, a beautiful sign of your loving presence and care for us through Christ Jesus, your Beloved Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of glory and the Beloved Son of God shine brightly on you today.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about an experience that reminded you of God's loving presence.
- When something wonderful happens, do you relate it to your faith? Why or why not?
- How do you think the transfiguration of Jesus made a difference for his disciples?

Read: Mark 9:2-9.

Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Elijah present is a heavenly moment as Jesus and his disciples make their way to Jerusalem, Golgotha, and the empty tomb. And, perhaps, that is what is so valuable and instructive about it. Jesus is headed to rejection, persecution, and a painful and shameful death. In our daily life as sojourners on earth and followers of Jesus, we, too know suffering of various kinds. We need—yes, perhaps even Jesus needed—a reminder that the road of life leads not just to suffering and death but to the fulfillment of God's promise of life and salvation. The heavenly voice that spoke at Jesus' baptism speaks again about Jesus as God's Beloved Son. What is added here is the critical admonition to listen to Jesus. In both Hebrew and Greek, to listen conveys the element of obedience. You listen to the one you are willing to obey, and the one you obey you hear with full attention. As we follow our crucified Lord through life, let us pay attention, listen closely, and seek faithful obedience to Jesus, the one who bestows on us God's heavenly glory. How do you listen closely to Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty and everlasting God, may we see glimpses of your glory that day by day we may listen and obey our Lord Jesus Christ with faith and confidence. Amen.**

In 2 Kings 2:1-12 God passes Elijah's mantle to Elisha. In the Bible God routinely passes on leadership from one person to another, like Abraham to Isaac, Jacob to Joseph, Moses to Joshua, and Elijah to Elisha. Who is someone you can encourage and support as a leader and servant of God this week?

This is Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus' clothes became dazzling white. This was an amazing experience for the disciples. Think or talk about experiences you have had where you felt close to God. They are sacred moments. Spend time this week reading the Bible and reflecting on God's word. If you have children, use a children's storybook Bible.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15