

**Transfiguration Sunday (14<sup>th</sup> February, 2021)**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

*M:* God said, 'Let light shine out of darkness',  
and made his light shine in our hearts

*All:* **to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Christ.**

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

*All:* **Amen**

**Opening Hymn – How good, Lord, to be here** *LHS 747*

- 1. How good, Lord, to be here!  
your glory fills the night;  
your face and garments, like the sun,  
shine with unborrowed light.**
- 2. How good, Lord, to be here,  
your beauty to behold,  
where Moses and Elijah stand,  
your messengers of old.**
- 3. Fulfiller of the past,  
and hope of things to be:  
we hail your body glorified,  
and our redemption see.**

<p><i>Music: (LH 452) Charles Lockhart 1745-1815; Words: Joseph Armitage Robinson 1858-1933 alt. Words © Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188 (TIS 234)</i></p>
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*M:* Friends in Christ:

For we do not proclaim ourselves;  
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord,  
so let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of  
our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us;

*C:* **We confess to you, almighty God,  
before the whole company of heaven, and to each other,**

**that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault.  
Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins,  
and bring us to eternal life.  
Amen.**

*M:* As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*M:* The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;  
Lord have mercy,

*All:* **Lord have mercy,**

*M:* he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting;  
Christ have mercy

*All:* **Christ have mercy.**

*M:* Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory.  
Lord have mercy,

*All:* **Lord have mercy.**

*M:* The Lord be with you,

*All:* **And also with you.**

*M:* Let us pray that we become like Christ.

*All:* **Almighty and loving God,  
we thank you for revealing your Son Jesus in glory  
before he suffered and died.  
Give us faith to recognise him  
as your dear Son,  
and strengthen us to suffer with him,  
until we come to share his glory.  
For he lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.**

**First Reading – 2 Kings 2:1-12**

***Elijah is taken up to heaven***

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup> The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.” <sup>4</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho. <sup>5</sup> The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.” <sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. <sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. <sup>10</sup> “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.” <sup>11</sup> As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. <sup>12</sup> Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

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

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 50:1-6** (*Spoken responsively*)

*M:* <sup>1</sup> The Mighty One, God, the Lord,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

*All:* <sup>2</sup> **From Zion, perfect in beauty,  
God shines forth.**

*M:* <sup>3</sup> Our God comes and will not be silent;  
a fire devours before him,  
and around him a tempest rages.

*All:* <sup>4</sup> **He summons the heavens above,  
and the earth, that he may judge his people:**

*M:* <sup>5</sup> “Gather to me this consecrated people,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

*All:* <sup>6</sup> **And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice.**

### **Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

*The light of the good news of Christ's glory*

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

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

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*M:* Alleluia, alleluia.  
From the cloud there came a voice:

*All:* **This is my Son, the Beloved;  
listen to him!**

**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel Reading – Mark 9:2-9**

*(Spoken)* **Glory to you, O Lord,  
Light of the world.**

*The transfiguration of Jesus*

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" <sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. <sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

*All: (Spoken)* **Praise to you, O Christ  
Light of the world.**

**Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for revealing your glory as God's Son.  
Lead us to follow you in faith.**

**Amen.**

**Gospel Hymn – Abide, O dearest Jesus**      *LH 181*

- 1. Abide, O dearest Jesus,  
Among us with Thy grace,  
That Satan may not harm us,  
Nor we to sin give place.**
- 2. Abide, O dear Redeemer,  
Among us with Thy Word,  
And thus now and hereafter  
True peace and joy afford.**
- 3. Abide with heavenly brightness  
Among us, precious light;  
Thy truth direct and keep us  
From error's gloomy night.**
- 4. Abide with richest blessings  
Among us, bounteous Lord;**

**Let us in grace and wisdom  
Grow daily through Thy Word.**

- 5. Abide with Thy protection  
Among us, Lord our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.**
- 6. Abide, O faithful Saviour,  
Among us with Thy love;  
Grant steadfastness, and help us  
To reach our home above.**

<p><i>Music: M. Vulpus c 1560-1615 (1609); Words: Josua Stegmann (1588-1632) Tr. August Crull In the public domain</i></p>
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## **Sermon**

*All:* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again  
from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God,  
the Father almighty,  
from thence he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

Offering Hymn – Christ is the world’s Light      LHS 783

1.     **Christ is the world’s light,  
he and no other;  
born in our darkness,  
he became our brother.  
If we have seen him,  
we have seen the Father:  
Glory to God on high.**
  
2.     **Christ is the world’s peace,  
he and no other;  
no one can serve him  
and despise another.  
Who else unites us,  
one in God the Father?  
Glory to God on high.**
  
3.     **Christ is the world’s life,  
he and no other;  
sold once for silver,  
murdered here, our brother –  
he, who redeems us,  
reigns with God the Father:  
Glory to God on high.**
  
4.     **Give God the glory,  
God and no other;  
give God the glory,  
Spirit, Son and Father;  
give God the glory,  
God in man my brother:  
Glory to God on high.**

<p><i>Music: Paris Anitphoner 1681 Words: Fred Pratt Green 1903-(1968) In the public domain</i></p>
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*M:*           Let us pray:

Great and glorious God,  
thank you for revealing your Son,  
and for showing the light of his glory.  
Let us always reflect his glory.  
And as Jesus was willing to die for us,  
may we give of ourselves to others.

*All:* **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the church**

*M:* Lord, teach us to 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 forever.  
Amen.**

*M:* God the Father  
show you the light of his glory  
in the face of his Son,  
so that you may be a light to the world.

Go in peace. May the light of Christ shine in our hearts.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.  
Amen.**

*M:* The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favour,  
† and give you peace.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn – Glorious things of you are spoken *LHS 187***

- 1. Glorious things of Thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
he whose word cannot be broken  
formed Thee for his own abode;  
on the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake Thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
thou may'st smile at all Thy foes.**
  
- 2. See the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply Thy sons and daughters,  
and all fear of want remove;  
who can faint while such a river  
ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,  
never fails from age to age.**
  
- 3. Saviour, since of Zion's city  
I, through grace, a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in Thy name;  
fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
all his boasted pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasure  
none but Zion's children know**

*John Newton (1725-1807) In Public Domain*