



## **THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**

Last Sunday after Pentecost

Christ the King

November 22, 2020



*Welcome. Thank you for joining us for the Liturgy of the Word and Spiritual Communion. Today is the Feast of Christ the King, and the last Sunday of the liturgical year.*

### **Liturgy of the Word**

#### **Opening Acclamation**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

#### *Celebrant*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with

all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Let us confess our sins to God.

*All*

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
We have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your son, our Lord Jesus  
Christ, forgive us all our offenses; and grant that we may serve you in newness  
of Life, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

*The Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

*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.*

### **Collect of the Day**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

*People And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **The Lessons**

#### **The Old Testament**

#### **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their

God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People Thanks be to God.*

## **Psalm 100**

**Let us read in unison.**

- 1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; \*  
serve the LORD with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know this: The LORD himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 For the LORD is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

## **The Epistle**

## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People Thanks be to God.*

**The Gospel**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**Sermon.....**The Rev. Annette Cleary Mayer

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand as you are able*

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.*

*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*

*We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

Jesus the Christ, you reign in glory as our King, and to you we lift our voices in prayer, saying, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

That we may serve God with gladness and generosity, discovering his likeness in those who hunger and thirst, in those who are threadbare and in prison, and in those who are sick, lonely, depressed, sorrowful, and rejected; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the forgiveness of our sins, the times when we were blind to the needs of others, and deaf to their shout for assistance, that we may move beyond our selfish greed and love with the measure that Jesus loves humanity; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That the leaders of our Church may receive the immeasurable greatness of God, seeking the holy way with every step they take, guiding the faithful and those who have strayed into the glorious dwelling place of divine love; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the sea and the dry land, molded by the Creator's imagination, that we may cherish the gifts they bring forth, and be good stewards of their fragile ecosystems; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That the sin of division may be lifted from family life, and from wherever it fractures the bonds of affection or movements toward peace, that forgiving what is past and trusting in God's future, we may work to reveal the kingdom in our time; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Rejoicing in the reign of Christ over all creation, let us continue our prayers.

For those in the military and all first responders, especially Alex, Anthony, Frank, Will, Edilio, Sam, Michael, Travis, and Alexander. Are there others? (Pause)  
Let us pray.

*People:* ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who are suffering, sick, or in need of support, especially Pam, Lynn, Don, Roberta, John, Marilyn, Jim, Mary, Emily, Meghan, Jan, Chelsea, Anita, Bob, Mark, Michael, John, Bob, Billy, Natasha, Laura, Cindy, Susie, Pam, Firyal, Katy, Lou, Nick, Brendan, Bob, Jayden, Debra, Janet, Jacelyn, Sharon, Gabe, Mary Alice, Chuck, Nancy, Jackson, Brian, Meghan, Chase, Georgeanne, Mike, Tom, Betty, Rich, Carol, David, and James, Kathy, Christine, Jeff and family. Are there others? (Pause) Let us pray.

*People:* ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

In thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays, especially Page Brticevich, Barb Eyster, and Kathy Madden. And for those celebrating anniversaries. Let us pray.

*People:* ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, especially Roberta Clark, that with all the saints, they may

have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to the Lord.

*People*      ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask:

Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

*Celebrant*    The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*      ***And also with you.***

\*\*\*\* Announcements

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

### ***Birthday Prayer***

**Watch over your children , O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **Anniversary Prayer**

**O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

And now, as our Savior, Christ, has taught us, we are bold to say,

***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.***

*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and  
the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Celebrant

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.

*All*

*Gracious God, though we cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine today, we thank you that we have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all the other benefits of Christ's passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.*

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.  
May the peace of Christ abound in your heart.  
May you be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*



***VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAYS AT NOON. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!***

**This Week at Transfiguration**

11/22	Liturgy of the Word & Spiritual Communion	9:00am	Facebook
	Liturgy of the Word & Spiritual Communion	11:00	Zoom
	Virtual Coffee Hour	Noon	Zoom
11/25	Morning Prayer	9:00am	Facebook
	Thanksgiving Service	7:00pm	Zoom
11/19	Liturgy of the Word & Spiritual Communion	9:00am	Facebook
	Liturgy of the Word & Spiritual Communion	11:00	Zoom
	Virtual Coffee Hour	Noon	Zoom

***Due to the stay-at-home advisory Mary and Annette will be working from home. you can reach Mary during business hours (9:00-3:00) at 708-645-4048 or 239-997-7889. Annette can be reached at 817-845-4985.***

Please note: Email is our primary means of communication. If you do not receive an email from the Rector at least once a week, first check your spam or junk folder. If you have email and still are not receiving our emails, please call the church office so that we can try to correct this. If you need to receive our information via the Postal Service, please contact the church office and let us know. Many thanks!

**Important:**

**You may continue to submit your pledges and offerings by mail or use the credit card payment option at [Transfigpalos.breezechms.com](http://Transfigpalos.breezechms.com), or use the text giving option by texting your \$ amount plus the word pledge to 708-394-7474.**



***Today is Ingathering Sunday for our stewardship drive. If you have not already submitted your pledge card, please mail it in as soon as possible. Many thanks for your continued support!***

- With the holidays fast approaching, please consider bringing non-perishable food for the basket in the foyer during the week or donating money to the following pantries by submitting your check to the church. Note in the memo line which organization you would like to support.
  - Respond Now
  - Frankfort Food Pantry
  - Bethany Lutheran Church
  - St. Irenaeus Food Pantry

## Celebrate Bishop Lee!

Zoom send off on Saturday, December 5 at 4 pm



The [Transition Committee](#) invites all members and friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago to join in a celebratory send-off for Bishop Jeff Lee and Lisa Lee on Saturday, December 5 at 4 pm via Zoom. The event will include video greetings from parishioners, clergy and bishops; remarks from Bishop Jeff and Lisa; reflections on his episcopacy; and a festive toast. All are invited to join the virtual farewell celebration using the Zoom link below.

At the end of the celebration, Standing Committee president Anne Jolly will present the Lees with a retirement purse, a longstanding Episcopal tradition and expression of appreciation for Bishop Lee's ministry. Those who wish to contribute to the purse are invited to donate by December 1. [Gifts made be made online](#) or by check (memo: Bishop's purse) and are tax deductible.

For more information about the farewell celebration please [contact Christopher Powell](#). For assistance with a contribution please contact [Jen BoyleTucker by email](#) or phone (312.751.4215).

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**CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**

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MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY: Cynthia Bowen, Mark Brticevich, Maria Finatri, Len

Hiznay, Pat Jonikaitis, Zach Ottinger, Jeanne Preston, Joe Rossi, Rich Strale, John

Carroll, Treasurer

By The Rev. Chris Harris



*How do I find greater meaning and purpose in my life? Why is happiness so fleeting and a lasting joy so elusive? Who am I and what am I supposed to do with the rest of my life?*

These are some of the big questions of life, and many of us begin to wrestle with them as we reach middle age and beyond. The best-selling book *The Second Mountain*, by David Brooks, suggests that we come to these questions most urgently when the “first mountain” of our life fails us either because we discover it to be ultimately unfulfilling (such as a life focused on financial success or career goals) or when it crumbles beneath our feet (as the result of a divorce or a life-changing health crisis).

According to Brooks, most of us don’t come looking for the “second mountain” of our lives until we’ve been thrown off the first somehow. Until then, when life is still going our way, we don’t have the eyes to see or the ears to hear. But when we finally are forced off our perches, we have the chance to discover for ourselves what Jesus has tried to tell us all along — that meaning and purpose come not from our accomplishments, our perfect families, or even perfect health, but by risking all that we are and all that we have for the sake of others.

If you are someone looking for the second mountain of your life, the question at the heart of our Gospel this week offers all the directions we need:

***How will I risk the gifts I’ve been given, to do the work God is calling me to do?***

Notice that the story turns on risk. Playing it safe, worrying about ourselves and what others will say about us, is the first mountain all over again. And a life of tepid generosity, one that is constrained by fear and our need for control, leaves us languishing in the valley.

Unless we are willing to risk it all for the sake of others – to take a leap into a Faith-Filled Generosity – we never reach the summit of a truly abundant life.

Chris Harris is Associate Rector of Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He serves on the board of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and the steering team for Invite-Welcome-Connect, a national evangelism ministry, and is creator of Living Wi\$ley, a faith and personal finance ministry.

FAITH  
FILLED

GENEROSITY

For reflection

- What is the “risky generosity” that God’s is nudging me to try on?
- What’s the best thing that could happen if I said,

A vertical graphic with a green background and a photograph of green leaves and vines. The text "FAITH FILLED" is in white, bold, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, "GENEROSITY" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a section titled "For reflection" in white, followed by two bullet points in white text.

