

# CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2023

**A community praising God, growing in Christ,  
and joyfully serving others.**



*Welcome. We are so happy to have you with us! If you are visiting us for the first time, please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the offering plate which is in front of the baptismal font. The last six pews on the left side of the church are reserved for those who are more comfortable wearing face masks and some social distancing. For the rest of the left side and the right side of the church, masks are optional. Masks are available if you need one. Thank you for your consideration.*

## Choir Acclamation

*Christ is Coming*

Processional

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

H 68

*Opening Hymn*

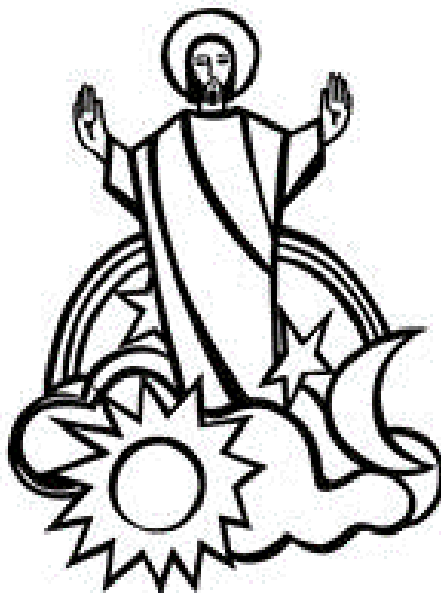
*Please stand as you are able.*

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

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

*Priest and People*

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## The Collect

*Celebrant    The Lord be with you.*

*People        And also with you.*

*Celebrant    Let us pray.*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## The Lessons

### First Reading

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
 We have all become like one who is unclean,  
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
 We all fade like a leaf,  
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
 There is no one who calls on your name,  
 or attempts to take hold of you;  
 for you have hidden your face from us,  
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
 we are all the work of your hand.  
 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
 and do not remember iniquity forever.  
 Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People            Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

### RCL Advent 1B Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

based on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" (H82-54)

Re-store us, O God of hosts; show the light of your coun- te-nance and we shall be saved.

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us. [ANT.]

4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. [ANT.]

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name. [ANT.]

## **The Epistle**

## **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

### **A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

*People            Thanks be to God*

# Sequence Hymn

## *Thy Word is a Lamp*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some lines having two verses. The score includes a 'Final' section and a 'to Refrain' section.

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a  
 light un-to my path. Thy word is a lamp  
 un-to my feet and a light un-to my  
 path. 1 to Verses Final  
 path, and a light un-to my  
 path. you're the light un-to my path.

Verses 1, 2

1. When I feel a - fraid, think I've lost my way,  
 2. Now I will not for - get your love for me and yet my

1. still you're there right be - side me. And  
 2. heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.

1. no-thing will I fear as long as you are near.  
 2. Je - sus, be my guide, and hold me to your side.

to Refrain

1. You are near me to the end.  
 2. I will love you to the end.

## **The Gospel**

**Mark 13:24-37**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*People      Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People      Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**Homily**

**The Rev. Annette Mayer**

## The Nicene Creed

*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.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Creator of the stars in the sky, the sun, and the moon, You are the light by which we wake and work.

*Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.*

Surround your church, her leaders, and people, with your armor of light. We pray especially for *Michael*, our presiding bishop; *Paula*, our bishop; and *Annette* our priest. Strengthen them as they reach out to you in prayer and hope. Open their hearts to your will.

*Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.*



We pray for our leaders: especially *Joe Biden*, our president; *J.B. Pritzker*, our governor; and the Congress and courts of this land. Savior of the nations, guide those who govern, and awaken those they lead, that we may all live in the spirit of cooperation and share so that all have enough: food, care, and peace.

***Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.***

For people across the world whose spirits bend under the yoke of oppression and struggle, give the people of this community a sense of togetherness and support. Open our eyes to those who fall by the wayside and whose faces and needs remain invisible. We pray for those in the military and for our first responders, especially Alex, Anthony, Frank, Edilio, Sam, Michael, Alexander, Jacob, Will and their families. Are there others?

***Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.***

Lover of our souls, you continue to mold us in your image and hold us in your hands. We ask your blessing on those who struggle with illness, anxiety, grief, or isolation. Today we pray for those on our parish prayer list, especially Chelsea, Georgianna, Marilyn, Chuck, Pam, Bill, Ed, Steven, Michael, Rich, Patrick, Annette, Christopher, Lorna, Cathy, Pura, Pam, Joe, Laura, Michael, Jude, Lois, Jack, Rich, Wayne, Chris, Michael, Tom, Kim and Derek. Are there others?

***Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.***

We pray for those celebrating birthdays, especially Marian Higgins, Pam Glass, and Mateo Portugues. Are there others?

***Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.***

Father of us all, we pray for those who have recently returned to your embrace and those who are broken with grief.

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.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*Deacon            Let us confess our sins to God.*

*Minister and People*

*God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.*

*Celebrant*

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

## **The Peace**

Celebrant      The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People          *And also with you.*

## **Announcements**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Lord, we remember those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially Bryan Ratay, Nils Sundin, Sandie Russo-Wagner, Jenna Beardsley and Marian Higgins.

## **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 forever. Amen.*

## The Offertory

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

### Offertory Anthem

### *Advent Meditation*

## The Holy Communion

Celebrant    The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant    Lift up your hearts.

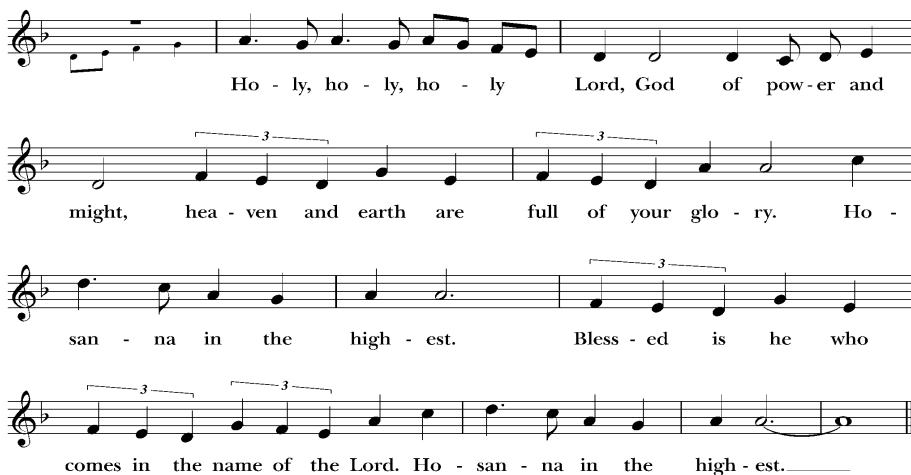
***People***        ***We lift them to the Lord***

Celebrant    Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People***        ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*Celebrant and People*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:



### *The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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, forever and ever. Amen*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant     Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
People        *Therefore let us keep the Feast.*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

## Invitation to Communion

*Celebrant*    The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
                  Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
                  and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Communion Hymn

*The King Shall Come*

*H 73*

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant*    *Let us pray.*

*Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## The Blessing and Dismissal

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## Closing Hymn

*Hark, a Thrilling Voice*

*H 59, vs. 1-3*

## Dismissal

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



<b><i>This week at Transfiguration:</i></b>			
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12/3	Adult Formation	Leach Hall	9:00am
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent/Holy Eucharist	Church/FB	10:00am
	Children's Formation		11:15am
	Coffee Hour by DOK	Leach Hall	11:15am
12/5	Silent Prayer	Church	5:30pm
12/10	Adult Formation	Leach Hall	9:00am
	Holy Eucharist	Church/FB	10:00am
	Children's Formation		11:15am
	Coffee Hour	Leach Hall	11:15am

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS**

***THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE REMAIN ON OUR PERMANENT PRAYER LIST AS THEIR NEED FOR PRAYER IS LONG-TERM RATHER THAN ACUTE:*** Joe, Don, Roberta, Marilyn, Jim, Mary, Emily, Meghan, Jan, Chelsea, Bob, Mark, Michael, John, Bob, Billy, Natasha, Laura, Cindy, Pam, Katy, Lou, Nick, Brendan, Bob, Jayden, Debra, Janet, Jacelyn, Sharon, Gabe, Chuck, Nancy, Mike, Tom, Betty, Carol, David, James, Kathy, Bill, John, Rosemary, Roberta, Earl, Patricia, Anita.

***\*\* PLEASE KEEP THESE INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR PRAYERS, AND NOTIFY THE OFFICE IF THEIR CONDITION OR SITUATION CHANGES.***

**\*\*\* Ushers, Readers and Eucharistic ministers** are needed for Sunday 10:00am services. Please sign-up on [RSVP.church](https://rsvp.church).

<https://rsvp.church/r/qPGqHff>.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **The Giving Tree** - This year's annual Giving Tree collection will benefit The Jones Center in Chicago Heights, whose mission is to strengthen family ties, emphasize the worth of God's children (all persons), and answer a community need. The Jones Center has been operating since 1917 and offers a rich variety of support programs and activities for all ages. For children, they have an after-school program, tutoring and mentoring, and assorted holiday events and parties, to name a few. Among their offerings for adults and seniors, there are health and wellness classes and workshops, social events, immigration services and resource referrals. They also operate a food pantry, offer a weekly free lunch program for those in need, and much more. We want to help them with a few of their wish list items: socks (all ages); \$10-\$15 fast food gift cards; small toys (ages 6-11); and jars of peanut butter and jelly. Everyone is invited to participate. Kindly purchase one or more of the wishlist items (new and unopened/tags-on) and place them on or under the Giving Tree. We will be collecting all the way through Christmas. Thank you for your help!
- The Children and Youth Ministry Committee is hosting a Christmas Pageant and Holiday Party on Sunday, December 17 - so mark your calendars, you'll not want to miss this returning event!

- **Bulletin Announcement for Alternative Christmas Gift Market:**  
**Are you thinking about Christmas shopping?** The Alternative Christmas Gift Market enables you to contribute to a charitable organization. An alternative Christmas gift to friends and family will benefit those in need. Your alternative gift to another will extend the true meaning of Christmas and ensure spiritual action after Christmas has passed and other gifts are forgotten or discarded. For each donation made, you will receive a decorative card indicating the name of the organization to which you have donated. This card can then be given as your alternative Christmas gift. **The following organizations will be included this year: The Jones Center, AUSA (American Veterans Service Dog Academy), Ukrainian Relief, The Bakery in La Transfiguracion, and our Venezuelan Families. Order forms are in church or on line.**
- **Annual CHRISTMAS Cookie Exchange**, Wednesday, Dec.13th 6:30 PM, Leach Hall. Join us for a fun evening of games, crafts, raffle prizes, music and snacks! Please bring 4 dozen cookies to share and a separate container to collect your cookies. You DO NOT have to bring cookies to attend. Also, bring a snack to share. Punch, coffee, tea and water will be provided. This is a casual evening of friends and fellowship. Please invite a friend to join us. Questions call Bea Hiznay 708-370-0399 or Dee Wagner 630-915-3935. Sign up sheet in the foyer. See you there!
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Please mark your calendar for Sunday, February 4th, 2024 for Annette's retirement and farewell party. We will be celebrating at Francesca's Oak Lawn, from 12 to 3:30 PM. Children over 10 are welcome. More details and formal invitations to follow. Hope to see everyone there!

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