

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 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

On Jordan's Bank

H 76, vs. 1-3

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

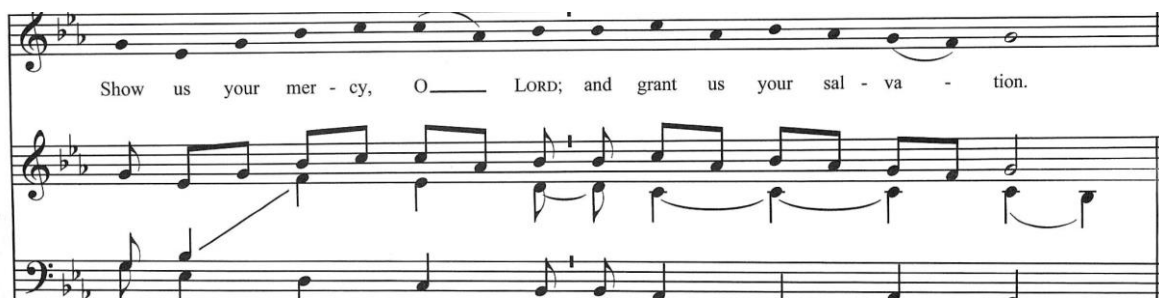
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13



- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins. [ANT.]
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land. [ANT.]
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven. [ANT.]
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. [ANT.]

The Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

People ***Thanks be to God***



Sequence Hymn

Thy Word is a Lamp

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. path, and a light un-to my
path. you're the light un-to my path.

Verses 1, 2

1. When I feel a - afraid, 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 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

Let us lift up our voices to God in strength, saying, “Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.”

Together as your Church, we long to see your face. Speak to us, Lord, as we walk through the wilderness listening for the sound of your voice. Give our leaders patience, wisdom, and a heart for your will: for *Michael*, our presiding bishop; *Paula*, our bishop; and *Annette*, our priest.

In your mercy,

be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

We pray for all who govern, especially Joe Biden, our president, and for the Congress and courts of this land. Guide the leaders of the nations as they work for the welfare of their people and the good of all.

In your mercy,

be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

Awaken us to the suffering of people near us and those far from us. Call forth in us a spirit of generosity and kindness. Equip us to respond to their needs. Arouse in us a sense of urgency to demonstrate your Good News in our lives and voice it, that all may hear. Make us messengers of your love. 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?

In your mercy,

be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

We ask you to comfort those who have lost hope, who struggle with anxiety about the future, who live in fear. Bring healing to those for whom we now pray: especially Chelsea, Georgianna, Marilyn, Chuck, Pam, Bill, Ed, Steven, Michael, Rich, Patrick, Annette, Christopher, Lorna, Cathy, Pura, Pam, Joe, Laura, Michael, Jude, Lois, Jack, Wayne, Chris, Michael, Tom, Kim, Derek, Barb, Rich and Sherrill. Are there others? We pray for those who have died, that their memories be blessings in our lives.

In your mercy,

be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays, especially Michael Eyster, Marilyn Garber & Wayne Ratay. Are there others?

In your mercy,

be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

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

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

Comfort Ye, My People, by Natalie Sleeth

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People *And of thine own have we given thee.*

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

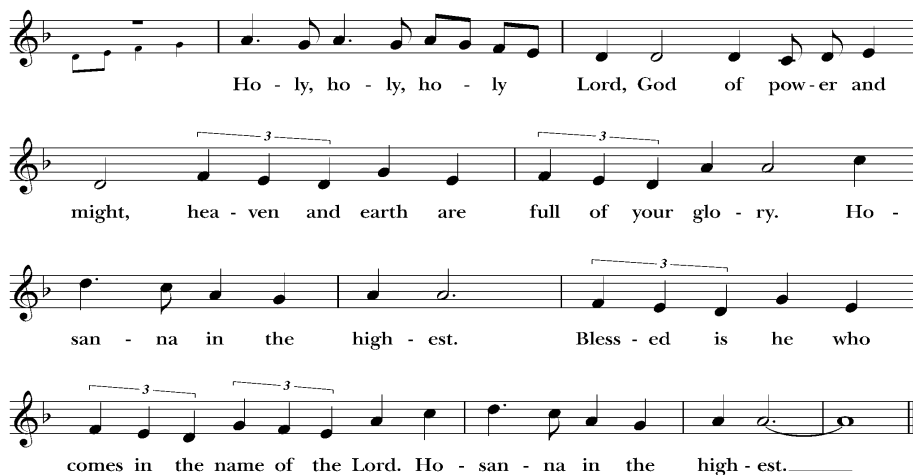
People *We lift them to the Lord*

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 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* **H 640**

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.

Deacon: In the name of Christ, and of this congregation, we send you forth bearing the body and blood of Christ to those who cannot be with us today.....Take God's holy Word, the prayers of this congregation, and this holy food for holy people.

People: We who are many are one Body because we share one bread, one cup.

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.**

Dismissal

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

<i>This week at Transfiguration:</i>

12/10	Adult Formation	Leach Hall	9:00am
	Second Sunday of Advent	Church/FB	10:00am
	Children's Formation		11:15am
	Coffee Hour hosted by Emmanuelle Anderson	Leach Hall	11:15am
12/12	Silent Prayer	Church	5:30pm
12/13	Cookie Exchange	Leach Hall	6:30pm
12/17	Adult Formation	Leach Hall	9:00am
	Third Sunday of Advent	Church/FB	10:00am
	Children's Formation		11:15am
	Coffee Hour hosted by CYMC	Leach Hall	11:15am
12/19	Silent Prayer	Church	5:30pm
12/21	Service for the Longest Nite (Blue Christmas)	Church	7:00pm
12/24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Church	10:00am
	No Coffee Hour		
12/24	Christmas Eve	Church	5:00pm
12/25	Christmas Day	Church	10:00am

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE REMAIN ON OUR PERMANENT PRAYER LIST AS THEIR NEED FOR PRAYER IS LONG-TERM RATHER THAN ACUTE:

Don, Roberta, Marilyn, Jim, Mary, Emily, Meghan, Jan, Chelsea, Bob, Mark, Michael, John, Bob, Billy, Natasha, Laura, Cindy, Pam, Katy, Lou, Nick, Brendan, Bob, Debra, Janet, Jacelyn, Sharon, Gabe, Chuck, Nancy, Mike, Tom, Betty, Carol, David, James, Kathy, Bill, John, Rosemary, Roberta, Earl, Patricia, Anita.

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!
- **Join us for the greening of the church** on Sunday December 17th. Grab some coffee and treats and meet in the sanctuary to decorate the church for Christmas.

- **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!

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