



CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2023
10:00 AM



**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
place it in the offering plate which is in front of the baptismal font.*

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to God

*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*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Old Testament

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

Let us read in unison.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

[For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"? Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness
beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end."]

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

John 1:1-14

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

People Glory to you Lord Christ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Jason Elliott

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

Welcome! Let your presence among us be reflected in our lives.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

With the gift of angel song and joyful spirits, we rejoice at your coming among us. Sustain us, your people, with joy deep in our hearts. Give our bishops, priests, deacons, and all our faithful leaders a renewed sense of purpose and direction, that they may lead us in the way you would have us go.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Give the leaders of the nations an urgency for peace and brotherhood, that the world you entered be blessed by good tidings. We pray for those in the military and first responders, especially Alex, Anthony, Frank, Edilio, Jason, Alexander, Jacob, Will, Michael and their families. Are there others?

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Shower people throughout the world with your blessings of beauty and purpose, freedom and plenty.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Open our hearts to the needs of those around us who are hungry or lonely, who struggle with the burdens of living, whose spirits are restless for you.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Make whole those who suffer today with illness, with anxiety, with despair. May we care about them and care for them as our brothers and sisters. We pray for 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, Sherrill, Sandy, Kathleen, Shane and George. Are there others?

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Gather to your heart those who have died, who are now welcomed into your eternal embrace and surrounded by your glory.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Emmanuelle Anderson and Br. Alberto Varona and for those celebrating anniversaries, Ray and Margaret Lehner.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God.

Deacon 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.*

Deacon and People

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Announcements

Offertory

Let us with gladness resent the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord. All Things come of thee, O Lord, etc.

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP 372

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.*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Celebrant and People

***Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

The people stand or kneel.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and

made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember our Michael our Presiding Bishop, Paula our Bishop, Annette our priest, Jason our Deacon, and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia**

The Invitation to Communion

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more.
So come, you have much faith, and you who have little.
You have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.
You who have tried to follow, and you who have failed.
Come, not because the Church invites you. It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.

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 with thanksgiving.

All are welcome at Christ's table. If you need gluten free- please let the priest or deacon know when you come for communion.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

*Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Blessing and Dismissal

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Deacon Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Announcements

The office will be closed from 12/26-1/2. We will return on Tuesday, January 2nd. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Annette on her cell.

This week at Transfiguration:

12/31	Holy Eucharist with Anointing	Church/FB	10:00am
1/2	Silent Prayer	Church	5:30pm

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