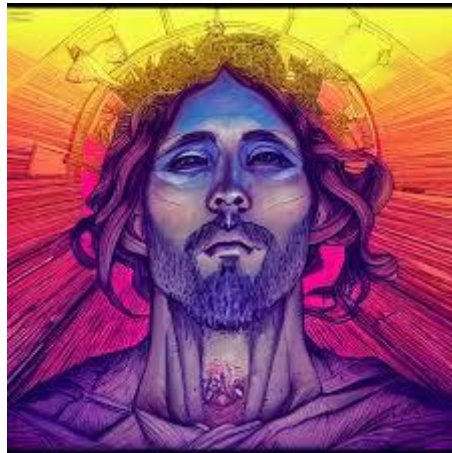




Community of St. Bridget
an inclusive catholic experience
Second Sunday of Lent - February 25, 2024
The Transfiguration
Liturgist/Homilist: Mary Eileen Collingwood



Open Art – illustration by James Jean

Suggestion: Please have a copy of the written liturgy on hand and a piece of bread and cup of wine/grape juice so you can participate fully in this liturgy.

All are welcome to come into this place that we make special by our very presence. Where the ordinary is sanctified, the human is celebrated, the compassionate is expected.

ALL: Together we make it a holy place with our every act of celebration.

With the flame of St. Bridget, we proclaim the transformative power of God. We give thanks that this love has been, is now, and will ever be at work within us and in all creation. Amen.

Opening Song: **Invocation** by Christopher Grundy. "Come to the Feast."

<https://youtu.be/A95UbOPVQKc> (lyric/video)

Hear us, God, for we are praying.
Hear us, God, for we are laughing in our joy.
Hear us, God, for we are crying out to you.
Wondering what will be, what will be.

Speak to us, God, for we are listening.
Speak to us, God, for we are waiting for your voice.
Speak to us, God, in our hearts and all around.
Tell us what can be, what can be.

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent – The Transfiguration. Our readings remind us of the covenant God made with the people of Israel, how Jesus was transfigured in God’s presence, and our role as eyewitnesses to the wonders and glory of God revealed in our life experiences. We begin our prayer in the name of our Sacred Essence: Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Wisdom-Sophia. Amen.

Transformation Rite*

As we prepare to celebrate this sacred meal, we acknowledge all that prevents us from accepting God’s loving forgiveness and healing touch.

1. Eternal Listener, open us to the transformative power of your presence in our lives. Encourage us to acknowledge our mistakes and to find relief from our humanity in your divinity.
2. Hold us tenderly when fear arises and the voices that plague us take over. Give us courage to stand up for ourselves so that we may change our unwanted patterns.
3. Remind us of the strength and beauty of each delicate fir needle, each sharp-pointed cactus spine, each sting of the scorpion’s tail, each disappearing snowflake—that we may understand and appreciate our need to protect and preserve.
4. Allow us to re-birth in sacred silence, shedding that protection and inviting growth through vulnerability.
5. Help us remember that we contain the tenacity to overcome, as modeled so beautifully by Earth’s evolutionary and cyclical processes. Teach us to love the *life-death-life* cycle and know that what harms us will fade into the ashes, as we allow ourselves to let go.
6. May we feel more blessed than bewildered, more certain than confused, as we release all that binds us. We are ready to receive Your Radiance, for our weaknesses and failures do not deter you, nor are they obstacles to your grace in our lives. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Most Loving God, be with us as we hear your Word in our lives asking us to do what moves us from our personal comfort to reach out in compassionate generosity, bringing your help and healing to those who have no voice in our world. Give us the faith and confidence to act in your name and with your compassion. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD**

We experience the Spirit of Our Living God as we listen to the Scripture readings broken open and shared by all.

First Reading: Exodus 33:7, 9-11a, 12-13a, 17-20 + Exodus 34:4-6a, 27-32

A reading from the book of Exodus:

During the early Exodus years, Moses would take a tent and pitch it himself outside the camp, some distance away. He called it the Tent of Meeting.

Those who wished to consult with God would go out to that Tent of Meeting. Whenever Moses entered the Tent of Meeting, a pillar of cloud came down and rested at the entrance. All the people arose and bowed down at the entrance of their tents. In this way, God spoke to Moses, face to face, as friends would speak to one another.

Moses said to God, "You have told me to lead this people, but You have never told me whom You will send with me. You've said to me, 'I know you by name,' and 'You have found favor with me.' So, if I have found favor with You, teach me your ways that I might truly know You and that I might find favor in Your sight. God replied to Moses, "As you have asked, I will do; for you have found favor in my sight and I have known you by name." Then Moses said, "Please. Show me your glory!"

God said, "I will make the fullness of my goodness pass before you. I will pronounce my name, I AM, in your presence. I show my grace to whom I show my grace, and I show my compassion to whom I show my compassion. But you cannot see my face. No human can see my face and live." ...

After the encounter, Moses chiseled out two stone tablets and, early in the morning, climbed Mount Sinai carrying the tablets as God had commanded.

Then, God appeared in a cloud and stood before Moses to proclaim the divine name, I AM.

God passed before Moses, proclaiming, "I AM! I am your God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in kindness and faithfulness."

Then God said to Moses, “Put these laws in writing, for they are the terms of the contract, the covenant, I hereby make with you and Israel.”

Moses stayed with God for forty days and forty nights, with neither food nor water, and wrote on the tablets the words of the Ten Commandments.

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying the tablets, he was not aware that the skin on his face was radiant from speaking with God. When Aaron and the other Israelites saw Moses, they were afraid to approach him because of the radiance of his face. Only when Moses called to them did Aaron and the leaders of the community come near. Then Moses spoke to them.

Later, all the Israelites gathered around, and Moses gave them the instructions he had received from God on Mount Sinai.

The inspired words of early Israelite editors of our ancient tradition. Amen.

Responsorial: Psalm 15

Cantor: *Those who do justice see God’s face.*

Those who do justice see God’s face. God, who may abide in your tent?
Who may ascend your holy mountain? **R**

Whoever walks in integrity, does what is right, and speaks truth from the heart; those who do not use the tongue for slander, do not wrong others, and never defame a neighbor; **R**

Whoever despises evil, but honors those who honor God; those who keep their word, even if it does not benefit them; whoever lends money at no interest; those who accept no bribe against the innocent; **R**

Whoever does these things will never be shaken, and dwells with God. **R**

Acclamation: *Spirit of the Living God* by Michael Crawford; WMG; UMPG, LatinAutor, Adorando Brazil, Capitol CMG Publishing, and 6 Music Rights Societies
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GO_B0DpTbUI (lyric/video-end at 1.31)

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me (x2)
Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

Second Reading – Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain so they could be by themselves.

There, Jesus was transfigured in their presence. The clothes Jesus wore became dazzling, radiant with a brightness different from what any earthly bleacher could make.

Then Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and they spoke with Jesus.

Then Peter said, "Rabbi, it's good for us to be here. Let's make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter didn't know what he was saying. The disciples were all terrified.

Then a cloud appeared, casting its shadow over them. From out of the cloud there came a voice: "This is my Beloved, my Own, listen to this One!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore - only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Chosen One had been raised from the dead.

They kept Jesus' words, and their experience, to themselves, questioning what "rising from the dead" could mean.

The inspired words of the evangelist, Mark. Amen.

Third Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-18

A reading from the second letter attributed to Peter:

We did not rely on cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power of the coming of Jesus the Christ. Rather, we were eyewitnesses to this splendor. Jesus was honored and glorified by our loving God: There came to him, from the sublime Presence, a voice that said, "This is my Beloved, my Own, on whom my favor rests." We ourselves heard this voice come from the cloud when we were with him on the holy mountain.

The inspired words of an Early Christian Writer. Amen.

Shared Homily: Mary Eileen

Last week, our readings centered around making a commitment.

This week marks the second Sunday of Lent, and our readings center on transfiguration. And we still hear ourselves pleading: *Hear us O God-- speak to us now!*

How can we decipher what God is saying to us?

We are told that Moses came down from Mt. Sinai radiant, and Jesus came down the mountain transfigured. Both of these mystical happenings were

centered on their encounter with God, their exchange with God on the mountain top.

In our third reading, we read that Peter heard the voice of God who cast favor on Jesus. Perhaps this reading reveals the secret to how we hear God's voice in our lives.

Who are we listening to? There are many distractions in our lives today. We carry numerous responsibilities and yet we spend our time *doing* our prayer and forgetting to *listen* to God's prayer in one another. It is wonderful that we minister to the poor and marginalized among us. But do we listen to them? Do we seek the wisdom and kindness of God in their need and in their voices? It is within these voices that we will hear God speak.

When we walk with integrity and unclutter our lives of the knots that bind, a world of opportunities for grace will be opened to us. Our failures do not deter God, nor are they obstacles to receiving God's graces. Our prayer must be to ask for the faith and confidence we need to act in the name of the Holy One, whose compassion is never ending. It is this faith that will transfigure us and free us to hear God's voice.

May we be transformed in mind and heart, shining with the light of God's love so that with Peter, whose faith poured out for all to hear, can we say, "O Holy One, it is good for us to be here!"

Where do you find God's voice in your life?

Holding these thoughts in the sacred space among us and strengthened by the support of one another, we now proclaim our affirmation of faith:

Affirmation of Faith:

- 7.** We believe in The Source of All Life, creator and nurturer of all, who is ever and always present with us. We believe in Jesus, the Anointed One, who is our love, our hope, and our light.
- 1.** We believe in Sacred Spirit, the breath of wisdom Sophia, the power of the winds enwrapping us in glory. We believe the Holy Spirit energizes and guides us to build caring communities and to challenge oppression, exploitation, and injustices and to make the world a better place by our presence.
- 2.** We believe that the Holy One loves us passionately and forgives us everything. We believe that we are radiant images of our Creator who calls us to live fully, love tenderly, and serve generously.

3. We believe we are called to care for each other and all of creation. We believe in the Communion of Saints, our forever friends, who support us on life's journey, who walk with us in love, who are never far from us, who are separated from us by a mere veil, always near, opening our minds to what is difficult to see.
4. We believe in Mary, the mother of Jesus, whose resolve made it possible for her son, Jesus, to become prophet and teacher who journeyed on the earth blessing the sick, making whole the broken, healing many, instilling faith in his followers, so that they insure his legacy for all eternity.
5. We believe in the Cosmic Christ, the everlasting Presence, one with the universe. We believe in the partnership and equality of women and men in our church and our world. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

O Holy One of mystery and compassion, who chose us before we were formed in the life-giving waters of the womb, who dedicated and appointed us to bring healing and love to your people and all creation, we now bring to this Table our blessings, cares, and concerns. After each request, our response remains:

We awaken to your call.

(For whom and for what shall we pray?)

Cosmic Oneness, you dwell in every creature. We know you hear our prayers and continually pour out your mercy and grace. Make us mindful of our worthiness, always enveloped in your love and compassion. Strengthen our faith as you work through us to co-create your ever-expanding Kingdom. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sign of Peace

As we prepare for this sacred meal, we reaffirm that just as Jesus was anointed, so is each of us. And so, we celebrate our Creator's fruitful love as we extend our blessing to one another with joy. May the peace that our brother Jesus offers, be always with us!

Offertory: (All raise bread and cup)

We place on our plate the harvest to be won by labor's love. And into the cup we pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from Earth's fruits.

ALL: O Gracious One, giver of the gifts we bring, receive them from all those gathered here today, affirming the sacrament of your Presence among us.

The Holy One is with us, abounding in Love!

6. Giving thanks to the Source of All Life, we open our hearts in the name of Jesus, who lives and loves, heals and empowers through us.
7. All Embracing Presence, the first passion of Jesus was his passion for You and his passion for justice; namely, to incarnate your justice by demanding for all a fair share of a world belonging to and guided by your covenant with Israel. In solidarity with Jesus, and with all the faithful women and men who have gone before us, we lift up our hearts in song:

Holy, Holy, Holy by Christopher Grundy on *Stepping In* © 2012.

<https://youtu.be/GUm2bEGB2dU> (no video)

Holy, holy, holy God of love and justice
The whole universe and everything beyond it,
Every galaxy and flower,
Every singing bird and falling drop of rain
Is ablaze
With your glory, glory, glory!
O, God most wonderful.
Blessed is the One who comes in your name!
Hosannah! Hosannah!

1. Loving Creator, we see around us the work of your hands, the fruit of your wisdom and love. The unfolding story of creation witnesses unceasingly to your creative power. We, your creatures, often deviate from that wisdom, hindering your creative presence in our midst.
 2. Sending among us Jesus, our Light and Hope, you birth afresh in our world the power of Sophia Wisdom, and in the gift of this Spirit, your creative goodness blooms anew, amid the variety and wonder of life.
- ALL:** Generous Gifter of Life, make us ever more aware of the presence of Your Spirit in these, our gifts, as we celebrate the +transformative energy within this bread and fruit of the vine given to nurture afresh in us, the discerning gifts of wisdom, light, and truth.
3. As a Christian people we celebrate the Open Table, proclaimed by Jesus our liberator and our friend, a Table of abundant life, inclusive love, and liberation, where all are welcome, and from which no one is to be excluded.

On the night before he died, Jesus did more than ask us to remember him. He showed us how to live when he washed the feet of his friends. At the Table, he took the Passover Bread, spoke the grace, broke the bread and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise bread)**

ALL: *Take and eat, all of you. This is my very Self which I give to you. (pause)*

When supper ended, Jesus took the cup, spoke the grace, and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise cup)**

ALL: *Take and drink this cup, the life of the new and everlasting covenant. It is poured out for you and for all, so that you might be free. Whenever you remember me like this, I am among you. (pause)*

We give thanks for who we are in this Unfolding Love:

ALL: Matter becomes conscious, the universe coming to reflect on itself: earthen vessels that hold a treasure, a temple of the Spirit, the Body of Jesus.

(All raise bread and cup)

ALL: All honor to the Creator of All, the Giver of Life,
To Jesus, the Risen One,
And to the Spirit, Bond of Love.
Let glory and praise be sung!

Cantor: Amen! (x2)

We pray as these gifts are shared among us:

4. Loving Teacher, you call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice,
We will live justly.
5. Loving Companion, you call us to be your presence in the world.
We will love tenderly.
6. Loving Prophet, you call us to speak truth to power.
We will walk with integrity in your abiding presence.

(Presider raises bread and cup)

This is the Bread and Cup of Life, through which we are nourished, and we nourish one another.

ALL: What we have heard with our ears, we will live with our lives; as we share communion, we will become communion, both Love's nourishment and Love's challenge.

All are welcome to receive at our Tables of Friendship!

Communion Meditation: ***Endless is Your Love***, by Tom Kendzia; ALBUM: Endless Is Your Love; LICENSES: The Orchard Music (on behalf of OCP)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqNB-nufs3s> (lyric/video)

Refrain: You know my heart.
You know my mind.
You know my words long before I speak them.
There is no place that I can hide.
Endless is your love for us.
How vast the sum of all your deeds!
Endless is your love for us.

Surely there's a place, even you don't know.
If I climb there, if I fly there, can I hide from you? **R**

Can't I hide at night, darkness be my light?
Can you see the day in darkness, can you find me there? **R**

Wonderful your works, countless as the sand.
Earth and heaven know your beauty, fashioned by your hand. **R**

Together we pray to God as Jesus did:

- 7.** O Holy One, you are within, around and among us.
We celebrate your many names.
Your wisdom come; your will be done,
Unfolding from the depths within us.
- 1.** Each day you give us all that we need;
You remind us of our limits, and we let go.
You support us in our power, and we act with courage.
- 2.** For you are the dwelling place within us,
The empowerment around us,
And the celebration among us, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

And so we know, O Holy One, that in your hands, by your power and according to your will, we too may be transfigured, and see with new eyes the sacred promises that lie before us. May the bread and cup we shared today be symbols of self-giving love as we open to our own conversion. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing - *All are invited to extend your hands for our mutual blessing:*

- 3.** Faithful and loving God: Bless each of us as we continue our journey to return to you once again, and come closer to who you have called us to be.

4. We make a +cross on our forehead as a sign of our commitment to follow The Way of Jesus. May we remain faithful to this commitment and challenge ourselves to become better persons, more closely in line with Jesus' teachings and ministry. Amen.

We go into this week, held together by the Source of All That Is, clothed in the nature of Jesus our Companion, and reinforced by the strength of +Wisdom-Spirit within us. Amen.

Closing Song: ***Christ in Me Arise*** by Trevor Thomson; Album: Christ in Me Arise; Licensed to YouTube by The Orchard Music © 2010 spiritandsong.com
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doIXOEVLNmo> (lyric/video; stop at 3:17)

Refrain: Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.
Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.

Be now my vision; open these eyes,
Showing me all that I must see.
Onward to the kindom, you are the way.
Arise in me and I shall rise with you. **R**

Be now my footsteps; leading the way
Taking me where I must go.
Onward to the kindom, You are the way.
Arise in me and I shall rise with you. **R**

Thank you for your courage to worship with us in a spirit of equality and justice!

You are welcome to invite a friend and join us again to support this Community with your presence and prayer.

*"Honoring Release" Pixie Lighthouse, *Prayers of Honoring*. (adapted)

**Scripture readings taken from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary made available through the Women's Ordination Conference.