

Liturgy

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Transfiguration Sunday

GATHERING

Let It Rise

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the praises of the King rise among us;
Let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the joy of the King rise among us;
Let it rise.

Oh, let it rise; Oh, let it rise.

CCLI Song #2240585 © 1997, 1999 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; Holland Davis

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble in awe!

He is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake!

The LORD is great in Zion; He is exalted above all peoples.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God,
and worship Him upon the holy mountain.

**We give thanks and praise His great and awesome name,
for He is holy.**

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus' disciples Peter, James, and John
beheld the majesty of His glory. And from the mystery of a cloud
they heard a voice proclaiming Him to be God's beloved Son.

Alleluia! The LORD has shown forth His glory.

Praise, honor, majesty and glory to His name!

Come, let us exalt the LORD our God,
and worship in His presence,
for the LORD our God is holy.

— from Psalm 99 and Matthew 17

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You;
I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love,
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy;
I want to see You.

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*LECTIONARY for the sixth Sunday
after the Epiphany, Year A (2026):*

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2 or 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

On this final Sunday after the day of Epiphany we focus our attention on the Transfiguration of the Lord. We often speak of the first and last Sundays of Epiphany as being two “bookends” of this liturgical season, for in both the baptism of Christ and His transfiguration we hear the voice of the Heavenly Father identifying Jesus as His Beloved Son. Throughout this season, we’ve reflected on the Person, work, and glorious acts of Christ—the Word made flesh who dwelt among us that we might behold His glory, glory as of the only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

As Jesus was nearing the conclusion of His earthly ministry, He took the disciples Peter, James, and John with Him to the top of a tall mountain. There, He was joined by Elijah and Moses, who spoke at length with Him of His departure—the word in Greek is, significantly, exodus—which He was about to accomplish. (This detail is included in the Luke account, Luke 9:28-36.) He was transfigured before them: His clothes became dazzlingly white and, as Matthew tells us, His face shown like the sun. In this event, the disciples were allowed to see the divine glory of the Son of God in His transcendent reality.

In this year A, the lectionary invites us to consider a parallel narrative alongside Matthew's account of the Transfiguration. In Exodus, we read of Moses' ascent of Mount Sinai, where he was to receive the two stone tablets of the covenant and take them back with him to the camp of the children of Israel. Exodus records that the glory of the LORD settled on the mountain for six days, and on the seventh God called to Moses out of the cloud. Moses entered the cloud, and remained

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

Doxology (Come, Thou Almighty King)

To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be.
Hence evermore:
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see;
And to eternity love and adore.

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Words and hymn tune public domain. Text: Anonymous.
Hymn tune: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1769.

Be Thou My Vision / Open the Eyes of My Heart

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me,
Save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought
In the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom,
Be Thou my true word.
Thou ever with me
And I with Thee, Lord.
Thou my great Father,
And I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
And I with Thee one.

(Open the Eyes of My Heart)

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love,
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You.

Riches I need not,
Nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance
Now and always.
Thou and Thou only,
The first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven,
My treasure Thou art.

Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou My Vision: Setting: Ellen Koehler.
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Ancient Irish hymn text. Hymn tune: SLANE.
Transl. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

there in the presence of the LORD for forty days and nights.

In this liturgy, we focus on the glory of the Incarnate Christ, and our hearts gladly answer, "Yes!" to God's instruction that we "listen to Him!"

Ellen's setting of Be Thou My Vision is available in the Music Catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet, and scored for piano and/or keyboard (on request).

Be sure to read the commentary on this hymn in the Music Room for instrumental suggestions, interesting historical background and suggestions for other usages in worship services.

Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/be-thou-my-vision>

Reprising these sections of the Gathering song makes for an interesting musical medley and combined, sung prayer.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
**Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
**Begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through Him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven:
**He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried.
The third day He rose again,
according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.**

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
**He proceeds from the Father,
and with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come.**

Amen.

– Nicene Creed

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”
has shone in our hearts to give the Light
of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
**Shine now in our hearts, merciful Father;
reveal any places of darkness, and cleanse us from sin.**

– based on 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

[Silence]

Merciful and loving God, You graciously call us to Yourself,
in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary moments of life,
in the valleys and on the mountaintops.
**Yet we confess that too often our eyes are blind to Your presence,
too often our ears are deaf to Your call.
We speak when we should listen;
we rush to act when we should reflect.**

[Silence]

In Your mercy, forgive us, we pray.
**We long only to live in Your light and walk in Your ways,
for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
who is Light of the world and sovereign Lord over all things.**

This setting of the Nicene Creed is written for one reader (the regular font) and the whole congregation, reading the bold text.

The Nicene Creed was originally drafted and adopted by the First Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. to affirm the essential, eternal divinity of Christ. Theologians use the term homoousios to describe and explain the “consubstantial” nature of the Father and the Son: the Greek word means of the same being or essence. The creed was amended by the First Council of Constantinople in 381 to include, mainly, additions and clarifications about the divinity and work of the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. This is the statement of faith we now know as the Nicene Creed, and which declares the essential tenets of the doctrine of the Trinity.

Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High,
The Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High, the Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.
Almighty God and Father. Amen.

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Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis ("*Glory to God in the highest*")

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's faithful and true promise of pardon:
The Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
**And we all, with unveiled face,
beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same image
from glory to glory.
For this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.**

– from 2 Corinthians 3:18

Thanks be to God for His transforming power!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and expressions of wonder and praise. . .

Sovereign Lord of glory,
**You created all that is, and with love formed us in Your image.
All we are, and all we have, are gifts and a trust from You.
In gratitude we return to You what is Yours:
Your tithes and our offerings.
Receive them, we pray, as expressions of our worship
and our desire to glorify Your name.**

Glorify Your Name

Your presence, Your glory,
You're welcome here.
All honor, dominion,
Lord, please come near.
We want You, we need You,
We live to glorify Your name.

Glorify Your name; glorify Your name;
Glorify the name above all names

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Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis, this setting of Agnus Dei addresses the ascended Lamb of God, who alone is Lord Most High and worthy of worship.

Agnus Dei (Canticle 20) is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano.

See the commentary in the Music Room (Liturgical settings) for explanatory notes on the text, melody and harmonic rhythm of this sung prayer.

Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei-canticle-20>

THE WORD

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,
Your name is holy, our Father.
Your kingdom come, and Your will be done
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials; save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom, we sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours –
Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

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O Worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
Oh, girded with praise.

O tell of His might and sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is the path on the wings of the storm.
Oh, sing of His grace.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
Oh, worship the King. Worship the King.

Music for this setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet, and as a solo/melody line with piano accompaniment on request.

Here's the link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/our-father-heaven>

Ellen's setting of O Worship the King is available on request. You may write us at clerestorynotes@gmail.com.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

Redeemer and Friend, He's our Redeemer and Friend,
Oh, worship the King.

Redeemer and Friend, He's our Redeemer and Friend,
Oh, worship the King. Worship the King.

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2004 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Words: Robert Grant, in *Christian Psalms*, 1833;
adapted from William Kethe, the Genevan *Psalter*, 1561.
Hymn tune: LYONS, attributed to Johann M. Hadyn.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Be Thou My Vision (verse 4)

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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Benediction:

The divine glory of the incarnate Word was revealed
on that holy mount of Transfiguration.
We, who have not seen and yet believe,
rejoice with His disciples in the divine majesty of Christ.

Amen!

Now, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
may you shine with His transforming power and glory,
telling His glorious story and walking out your baptisms
as people changed through the presence of the Savior of the world.

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship...

“Between the wedding feast in Cana and the impending death of Jesus, a progressive unveiling of his glory will appear. The season of Epiphany . . . celebrates this progressive unveiling of God's glory manifest in Jesus and invites us to order our spiritual journey around the Christ manifest in history, manifest in us. . . . Spirituality is Christ living his life *in* us and *through* us. The manifestation of the glory of God made present in Jesus is to continue in his followers.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 85-86.)

Lectionary for next week: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

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