

# February 23, 2020: Transfiguration Sunday

## Last Sunday After the Epiphany

**Color:** White

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Exodus 24:12-18](#) (*Moses enters the cloud of God's glory on Mount Sinai*)

[Psalm 2](#) (*God is sovereign and the one who rules from Zion will be God's own Son*)

[or] [Psalm 99](#) (*The holy Lord reigns on high and has forgiven Israel*)

[2 Peter 1:16-21](#) (*The apostle reflects upon the vision of transfiguration*)

[Matthew 17:1-9](#) (*The story of Jesus' transfiguration*)

**Themes:** Glory of God, Mystery, Vision, Discipleship, Unity, Reconciliation

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**FOCAL Faithelement PASSAGE: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

(Podcast will be ready 2 weeks before date of use)

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### HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information regarding writers, composers, alternate and associated texts and tunes, corresponding hymn numbers, and more. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts.

[Be Thou My Vision](#) (SLANE)

[Christ Beside Me](#) (BUNESSAN)

[Fairest Lord Jesus](#) (ST. ELIZABETH)

[Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken](#) (AUSTRIA)

[Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah](#) (CWM RHONDDA)

[Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face](#) (LANGRAN (aka ST. AGNES); MORECAMBE)

[Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise](#) (ST. DENIO)

[Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining \(Shine, Jesus, Shine\)](#) (SHINE, JESUS, SHINE)

[Meekness and Majesty](#) (MEEKNESS AND MAJESTY)

[O God Beyond All Praising](#) (THAXTED)

[O Worship the King](#) (LYONS)

[Open Our Eyes, Lord](#) (OPEN OUR EYES)

[The God of Abraham Praise](#) (LEONI)

[You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd](#) (PICARDY)

**Before/During Prayer**

[Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus](#) (LEMMEL)

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## ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**Be Thou My Vision** - MD ..... 2 Peter/Matthew  
Bob Chilcott  
© 2001, Oxford University Press, 9780193432925  
SATB, Solo, Piano

**Be Thou My Vision** - M ..... 2 Peter/Matthew  
Traditional Irish/Heather Sorenson, arr.  
© 2012, Hal Leonard Corp, 35028337  
SATB, Piano (opt. Oboe, Violin, Cello parts available)

**Beautiful Savior** - E ..... 2 Peter/Matthew  
*ST. ELIZABETH*/Anna Laura Page, arr.  
© 2002, Alfred Publishing Co.; 20894  
SATB or SAB, Keyboard, opt. Flute

**Hallelujah** (*Mount of Olives*) - MD... 2 Peter/Matthew  
Ludwig Van Beethoven  
© G. Schirmer; #OC2215; cpdl.com #18734  
SATB, Keyboard

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** - E ..... Communion  
*PICARDY*/Carlton Young, arr.  
© 2015, Augsburg Fortress; 9781451498882  
SATB, 3 Handbells, Finger Cymbals

**Praise His Holy Name** - E ..... Psalm, 2 Peter  
Keith Hampton  
© 1998, earthsongs, S-85  
SATB, Piano (SSA and TTB voicings available)

**Song of the Transfiguration** - M..... 2 Peter, Matthew  
*PICARDY*/David Haas, arr.  
© 2001, GIA Publications, G-5664  
SATB, Solo, Keyboard, opt. Congregation, Guitar  
-- youth and children --

**Climbin' Up the Mountain** - E ..... Matt./Black History  
Traditional Spiritual/Mark Patterson, arr.  
© 2017, Choristers Guild, CGA-1509  
Unison/2-Part, Piano

**Fairest Lord Jesus** - M..... 2 Peter, Matthew  
Gilbert Martin  
© 1979, Hinshaw Music, HMC-400  
2-Part Treble, Piano

**Light of Light** - E ..... 2 Peter, Matthew  
Nancy Gifford  
© 2009, Choristers Guild, CGA-1162  
Unison, Piano

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Suddenly they saw him the way he was,  
the way he really was all the time,  
although they had never seen it before,  
the glory which blinds the everyday eye  
and so becomes invisible.*

...

*This is the way he was—is—from the beginning,  
and we cannot bear it. So he manned himself,  
came manifest to us; and there on the mountain  
they saw him, really saw him, saw his light.*

— MADELEINE L'ENGLE, from "THE ORDERING OF LOVE"

*Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration.  
You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see.  
Only, who could have the courage to see it?*

— MARILYNNE ROBINSON, "GILEAD"

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to the mountain, people of God!

**All: We gather to be changed in God's presence.**

One: Hear God's word, those who would listen!

**All: We open our eyes to God's light.**

One: Sing God's praises, all creation!

**All: We proclaim God's salvation and grace.**

One: Come to the mountain and behold!

**All: Great and glorious is the Lord! Alleluia! Amen.**

## GATHERING PRAYER

Holy Lord, ever changing, ever the same,  
transform us by your power,  
gather us by your love,  
redeem us in your mercy,  
and open our eyes to your presence.  
We pray in the light of your glory and grace. Amen.

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## SUNG AFTER PRAYER:

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (final stanza)*

**Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be:  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
'til in heav'n we take our place,  
'til we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

-- Charles Wesley, 1747

## CONFESSION

You have been revealed in glory as God's Son.

**We avert our eyes, preferring instead to think we are not worthy.**

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

You have been revealed as the light of the world.

**We glimpse through glass darkly, when we glimpse at all.**

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

You tell us not to be afraid, and bring change to every life encounter.

**We linger in fear and are by nature uncomfortable with change.**

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ  
Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

To the King of the ages,  
immortal, invisible, the only God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

--1 Timothy 1:15,17

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## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God of light, love, and glory.  
As happened on the mountain,  
reveal to us your story.  
May the brilliance of your face  
radiate from ours as we proclaim your Word  
and may we, your people, be never unable  
to tell all of that we have seen and heard.

## BENEDICTION

May the God of both the mountaintop  
and the valley below lift your eyes to see glory  
wherever you go.  
May the Lord accompany you and open  
your minds to the mystery of His presence.  
And may the Spirit, the source of transformation  
and life, guide you to be people of light.