

**Transfiguration Sunday
Scout Sunday**

2-27-2022

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Celebrate (Introduction)

“Witness to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God’s glory in the word and in the supper and who are being ‘transformed into the same image’ by God’s Spirit”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn: [“Morning Has Broken”](#)

Psalmody: Psalm 99

“The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

²The Lord is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

³Let them praise thy great and terrible name!

Holy is he!

⁴Mighty King,^[a] lover of justice,

thou hast established equity;

thou hast executed justice

and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵Extol the Lord our God;

worship at his footstool!

Holy is he!

⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

⁷He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his testimonies,

and the statutes that he gave them.

⁸O Lord our God, thou didst answer them;

thou wast a forgiving God to them,

but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹Extol the Lord our God,

and worship at his holy mountain;

for the Lord our God is holy!

Hymn of Praise: [“We Praise You, O God”](#)

Prayer of the Day

“Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.. Amen.”

1st Reading: [Exodus 34:29-35](#)

2nd Reading: [2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2](#)

The Gospel: [Luke 9:28-43](#)

Hymn: [“O God Our Help in Ages Past”](#)

The Message: ([Video](#))

Being scout Sunday of course many of you have had the experience of camping overnight in the woods. For the first time camper, the dark night can be very scary, especially when the nighttime wild life is especially active and noisy. When you realize that animals of prey often roam at night it is even more scary. Imaginations can run wild with each new unknown sound. To encounter a wild animal can be a once in the lifetime experience but also has its elements of danger.

I once read this story about such an encounter. Two men are camping when they see it's getting dark outside. The first man, evidently a previous scout, pops up his tent. Unfortunately, it only had space for one person. The second man was not prepared with a tent so he had to sleep outside. During the night bears came to visit. Thankfully, the man chases the

Now hopefully you will not unexpectedly run into any bear in your camping trips like this unfortunate man did. But this is not to say that your life will not come face to face with unexpected events or circumstances which may have unwanted outcomes. Life is not always a smooth road to travel. It may have potholes which may bring your life to a standstill or there may be detours which you are not happy to take. Over the past three years we all have experienced this with the pandemic. Like the pandemic there have been times which may have been difficult to accept or maybe they were even life changing. There are no guarantees that everything in life will be smooth sailing. We most certainly will not get our way all of the time. This morning we are reminded of Moses from our first reading. Of course Moses being the instrument of God finally got his way with the Pharaoh. Moses' people, the Hebrews were held as slave for hundreds of years in order to supply the manpower needed to build the monuments and final resting place for the Pharaohs and the elite of Egypt. But that changed when after many destructive plagues instituted by God through Moses the Pharaoh was convinced to set the Hebrews free.

After quickly organizing his people Moses led his people out of Egypt through the departed Red Sea into their freedom. After all the years of enslavement everything seemed to be going their way. Life seemed to be good since they would soon establish their kingdom within the promised land of their ancestors. It all looked so good and full of promise. But these refugees quickly discovered that even though they suffered much under slavery, life would still present obstacles and difficulties beyond their expectations. Life after slavery would be no cake walk. Almost immediately they discovered that their journey was through some of the most hostile land. The land was not only mainly desolate with little in the way of water and vegetation but would turn into dangerous rocky mountainous terrain. Food and water would be extremely scarce. Hunger set in and they began to rebel against their leader Moses for leading them into their terrible plight. It was then that they found that God provided them with manna to eat. But things got worse in that they began to be overcome with poisonous snakes but God through Moses answered their call for help. By enlarge they were not happy campers for they only saw the negative in their lives. They even began to question any hope of ever getting to the Promised Land.

In order to show that He had not abandoned them God had Moses withdraw to the Mountaintop in order to give them words to live by. The words to live by were the Ten Commandments, which should have been a unifying force among an increasing disgruntled people. While on that mountaintop the people became so disgruntled with Moses and God that they made their own god in the form of a golden calf. When Moses came down with the inscribed tablets and saw the people worshipping this false god he became so angry his destroyed the tablets right before them and admonished the people. After negotiating with God, God promised to renew His relationship through giving them the Ten Commandments again with the stipulation that Moses would never set foot in the Promised Land. Leadership often finds out the seeming unfairness of life since the leader is held responsible for the actions of his people.

In order to hold the people also responsible the Hebrews would wander in this desolate and hostile land for forty years. They would have to make do with almost prisonlike conditions. In a way although free they had enslaved themselves to this horrible journey before they could enter the Promised Land. But the amazing thing is that they not only survived but grew as a nation of people which allow them to overtake the Canaanite people and establish themselves in the Promised Land, the land which is basically Israel today.

Although life during those forty years was difficult with many challenges, the Hebrews now had the unifying instrument of the Ten Commandments which gave them hope. We never should lose hope for life without the hope of tomorrow is not life at all. The popular singer, Celine Dion, once said "Life imposes things on you that you can't control, but you still have the choice of how you're going to live through this." We have experienced this over the past three years with the pandemic. Although it may have meant many sacrifices especially among the young, we have chosen to lessen the devastation to us and others by the choices we have made which may have caused sacrifice. You have helped to make the difference.

Now we are facing another possible journey into the possibility of another journey into the wilderness of difficult times. The evil acts of mankind have erupted in the Ukraine which has the potential to disrupt the whole world. Like the Hebrews so long ago, we too must now get over our differences and find that unifying force in order to overcome this most troubling time. We must begin to see each other as a child of God and as a child of this God, find the love which he has shared with us. We are all family brothers and sister. It is your generation which can be that shining example to love instead of hate and to make decisions out of love for each other. To think that so many of all ages are suffering from the horrifying reality of daily warfare should bring us together in order to bring about peace.

There is little doubt that we live during troubling times but never let the troubles of the times keep you from finding the joys which each day present. As the singer Nightbirde once said. "You can't wait until life's not hard anymore before you decide to be happy." Therefore, in being scouts always be prepared not only in facing the pitfalls in life but to experience and celebrate those things which bring happiness. Like the boy with epilepsy in our gospel lesson this morning there may be those things which interfere with our well-being and goals in life but we also have the hope and assurance of a new day in which we will find new life. Each night before you fall asleep reflect upon your day and seek out the joys of that day and thank God for them for each day we experience is our own Promised Land.

As I look at you this morning I can only pray that during these times you will find the wisdom of truth and the insight to see and celebrate the joys of your God given life.

Anthem: ["This is My Song"](#)

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#)):

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

Ever present and loving Father, we are now not only experiencing our weakness in continuing to resort to warfare other parts of the world, but now also in the Ukraine. This war threatens to widen which could present massive death and destruction throughout the world. Enter the hearts and minds of leaders and people everywhere with your loving and compassionate wisdom. We especially pray for all those who are experiencing the pain and suffering which war invokes upon the most innocent lives. Open our lives to see that although we may not agree with someone, they are still one of your children and are to be treated as such. Never let us waiver from living the witness to your example of mercy. Give us the strength and wisdom to forge a path to peace.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Eugene Ash, Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, Leo Dickel, Doty

Gibson, Kraig Greff, Nancy Griebel, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, David Kieffer, Pam Lambert, Charles Larsen, Donna Mayhew, the McNamara family, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Brenda Penyak, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Esther and Buck Trautwein,, Pastor Jack,
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Lord"

Announcements

Ash Wednesday Service – March 2, 7:30 PM
Please note that Masks are required while in the church building.

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291