

**Church of the divine love**

**MARCH 2, 2025 10:15 AM**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

*Please observe silence*

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Exodus 34:29-35**

Psalm 92

Second Lesson: **2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer C	page 369
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 367
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer For the Parish	page 817
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43).

#### **Beloved in Christ,**

When have you recently experienced beauty? What are some of your most beautiful experiences? Before you answer let me explain what I am asking. I am not asking when you saw something you thought was beautiful. I am not asking about physical beauty, the outward appearance of people or things. I'm asking about moments and situations in which you experienced and participated in beauty not so much with your eyes or your mind but with your heart. I am talking about those times when the beautiful meets us and we know it intimately, not as an object but as a presence greater than ourselves. We are grasped and enfolded by the beauty and it shapes and forms our lives leaving us forever changed.

The beauty that I am speaking of cannot be defined. It can only be encountered and experienced. It's more than what our words can describe but is often named by our tears. I'm sure you've all had those

times when the beauty of the moment fills your eyes with tears and all you can say is, It's just so beautiful. I can't explain what I mean by beauty or how it happens so let me just tell you some of my experiences of beauty. Perhaps that will prompt or help you to recognize and recall some of your own. I hope it does.

I remember the night when my younger nephew was born and the nurse placed him in my hands and said that I could carry him to the nursery. I saw his face for the first time. I heard his cry. I touched his little wrinkled fingers. But there was so much more than what I was seeing, hearing, or touching. I had been enveloped in beauty. More than twenty years ago I knelt before wife one morning and asked her to marry me. I looked in her eyes. I felt her hands in mine. I heard her say yes. But there was more. Beauty had wrapped itself around us. This is happening all the time. These stories aren't about just me. They are about beauty. Neither are they only my stories. They're your stories too. We all have them. We are always waking up to the presence of beauty in ourselves, each other, and the world. How could it be otherwise when one of the divine names, one of the names for God, is The Beautiful One? Why wouldn't The Beautiful One make himself known through and regularly invite us to participate in beauty? Holy Scripture tells us that the Creator looked at all creation and declared it to be very good, but did you know that the Hebrew word translated as good also means beautiful? What does it say about us that we have been created in the image and likeness of The Beautiful One?

Here's what I think all this means. We have been created with an eye for beauty. We are to live with an eye for beauty. We are to see ourselves and one another with an eye for beauty. An eye for beauty opens us to the transfiguring presence of God in every human being, in our lives, and in our world. Beauty connects us to our truest and most authentic self and it is available to all who keep awake. So, what are your stories of beauty? When have you known and participated in that presence that can only be described as beautiful? Tell me what happened, where you were, who was there. When has the beauty of the liturgy, a piece of music, poetry, a conversation brought tears to your eyes? Recall a time when beauty wrapped itself around you and all you could think was, I never want this moment to end. The experience of beauty ranges from the most profound and intimate experiences to those fits of holy laughter that leave you with a belly ache and streams of tears. What are your experiences of beauty? Where have you encountered beauty this past week?

Whatever your encounters are, they are an encounter with the divine presence, experiences of the Light of God illumining your life, experiences through which your life was transformed and forever changed. They are your experiences of transfiguration, moments and situations in which you had an eye for beauty. Isn't that what happened to Peter, John, and James? They kept awake and they saw Christ's glory. They had an eye for beauty. They awoke to the beauty that had always been before them. The beauty wasn't new, their seeing was. Luke doesn't offer any explanations or speculation about how this happened, only that it did. Neither do Peter, John, or James offer an explanation. They kept silent and, in those days, told no one of any of the things they had seen. I think there is some wisdom for us in the

silence of Peter, John, and James. The transfiguration is one of those big stories, mountaintop stories, that can begin to seem a bit too fantastic, unreal, and distant from us. Often, we take those kinds of stories and either look for some rational explanation or we make it a supernatural event about Jesus that could never happen in the flatlands of our lives. Either way we close our eyes and fall asleep to the beauty of God that is in and all around us. Their silence, however, asks us to just let the story be the story. It doesn't need to be explained; it needs to be experienced. It doesn't need to be understood; it needs to be lived. When we let the story be the story, we create room for it to become our story. We let it live in us. And the story of the transfiguration in today's gospel (Luke 9:28-36) is the story of the sublime, absolute beauty.

While Luke does not explain the transfiguration, neither will he let us be naive about it. I think that's why in his account of the gospel the story of the demon possessed boy (**Luke 9:37-43**) immediately follows the story of the transfiguration. Luke is holding before us a truth and a reality about the world and ourselves. Transfiguration and disfiguration stand side by side. They do in each one of us, in our world, and in Luke's gospel. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a man brought his demon possessed son to Jesus. He told Jesus that the demon mauls his son and the boy shrieks, convulses, and foams at the mouth. It's an ugly scene. The boy's life has been distorted and disfigured. He has been separated from the original beauty of his creation. He has lost touch with his truest and most authentic self. He's not himself. It's a story of disfiguration. I've known times like that as well and I'll bet you have too. They are those times when we look at ourselves and our life and we don't like what we see or what we have become. It's ugly. I'm not talking about our outward and physical appearance. This ugliness, like beauty, is an interior condition. In those times we are recognizing that our life has become deformed and disfigured. We might even say things like, I'm just not myself; That's not me, how did my life get to this point? I don't know what came over me. That's not who I am. What we are really saying is that we've lost the connection with the original beauty of our creation. We've fallen asleep to the beauty within us, others, and the world.

The beauty, however, has not and cannot be lost. It doesn't matter who you are, what you've done, or what your life is like the beauty cannot be lost. Human life and the world have already been transfigured. That's what Jesus knows and demonstrates with his healing of the boy. Jesus always sees with an eye for beauty. He refuses to let the manifestation of ugliness turn him away. Even within the distorted and disfigured life of the boy Jesus sees beauty. He calls forth and opens himself to the boy's beauty he knows has always been there. With an eye for beauty Jesus heals and returns the boy to his father. That's the power of beauty to change our life and return us to ourselves. That's The Beautiful One healing, restoring, and making whole. That's the transfiguration in the flatlands of life. Absolute beauty is everywhere. It's in the transfigurations and disfigurations of life, on the mountaintops and in the flatlands, in you and me, and in those we never would have guessed or thought possible.

God comes to meet us because we are God's people, weighed down with burdens that only God can

carry. And so, God comes to carry them and to carry us. In God's Word spoken here, in the waters of God's cleansing grace, in the bread and wine of mercy, Christ' body and blood – in all these things, God comes down the mountain to us. And so, on this Transfiguration Sunday, as we also go down the mountain with Jesus, we are reminded God is always on the way down to us. **Amen!**

***All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.***

LAST EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
SHROVE TUESDAY	6:00 PM	PANCAKE SUPPER NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK
ASH WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	HOLY EUCHARIST WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
FRIDAY	7:00 PM	IMPROV GROUP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

**SET CLOCKS AHEAD**

1 LENT	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
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	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Nolans	Erika Febres

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

### A Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, I stand ready to receive Your wisdom and guidance. In each decision, big or small, lead me to discern your will and to act accordingly. Help me to understand the depth of Your wisdom, finding guidance in Your word and through prayer. Teach me to be patient as I wait for Your direction, trusting that Your timing is perfect. May I navigate this day with the assurance that Your wisdom is a treasure far greater than any earthly knowledge. Guide my thoughts and actions, that they may be a reflection of Your discernment and love. In Your guidance, I find the path to a life of purpose and peace.

Amen

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,

Lay my life before you,

How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus

And third verse starting with Spirit.

## Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn  
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So  
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that  
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince  
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions  
and glory, now and forever. Amen

