

The Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday August 6

The Collect: O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Old Testament: Exodus 34:29-35 read from the New Century Version Bible

Then Moses came down from Mount Sinai, carrying the two stone tablets of the Agreement in his hands. But he did not know that his face was shining because he had talked with the Lord. When Aaron and all the people of Israel saw that Moses' face was shining, they were afraid to go near him. But Moses called to them, so Aaron and all the leaders of the people returned to Moses, and he talked with them. After that, all the people of Israel came near him, and he gave them all the commands that the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses finished speaking to the people, he put a covering over his face. Anytime Moses went before the Lord to speak with him, Moses took off the covering until he came out. Then Moses would come out and tell the Israelites what the Lord had commanded. They would see that Moses' face was shining. So he would cover his face again until the next time he went in to speak with the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 99 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

1 The Lord is King; let the people tremble; * he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

2 The Lord is great in Zion; * he is high above all peoples.

3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; * he is the Holy One.

4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; * you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; * he is the Holy One.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, * they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; * they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; * you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill; * for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:13-21 read from the New International Version Bible

I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36 read from the New Living Translation Version Bible

About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly, two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus. They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.

Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, "Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them.

Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him." When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone. They didn't tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord

The Closing Prayer: On August 7 we celebrate the life of Catherine Winkworth, poet and translator.

Catherine Winkworth is celebrated as the premier translator of German hymns and chorales into English.

She was born in London in 1827, but grew up in Manchester, where she spent most of her life. Her lifelong fascination with German hymns and chorales began during a yearlong visit to Dresden, Germany in 1848. Her first set of translations, *Lyra Germanica*, in 1855 contained 103 hymns, and a second series under the same title appeared in 1858, and contained 121 hymns. Her translations were immensely successful in expressing the theological richness and spirit of the German texts; *Lyra Germanica* went through numerous editions, and reprints and remains today a monumental contribution to the history of hymnody. Among the most well

known of Winkworth's translations that can be found in the 1882 Hymnal are: "Comfort, comfort ye my people" #67, "Now thank we all our God", #397, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #390, and "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness", #339.

In some cases, Winkworth's sturdy translations had been wed with tunes that did not always capture the spirit of the original German chorale. To help rectify this, Winkworth published *The Chorale Book for England* in 1863 that matched her translations with their original tunes. In 1869, she published a commentary that provided biographies of the German hymn writers and other material to make the German hymn and chorale more accessible to the English singers of her masterful translations.

She is also remembered for her advocacy for women's rights and for her efforts to encourage university education for women. In support of her advocacy for women, Winkworth sought inspiration in German literature and made it available in English translation. Notable are her translations of the biography of two founders of sisterhood for the poor and the sick: *Life of Pastor Fliedner*, in 1861 and *Life of Amelia Sieveking*, in 1863.

Winkworth was traveling to an international conference on women's issues when she died of a heart attack on July 1st, 1878. She was 51. She was buried at Monnetier, near Geneva. Her life and work has been honored with a monument in Bristol Cathedral.

Let us pray: Comfort your people, O God of peace, and prepare a way for us in the desert, that, like your poet and translator Catherine Winkworth, we may preserve the spiritual treasures of your saints of former years and sing our thanks to you with hearts and hands and voices, eternal triune God whom earth and heaven adore; for you live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**