



Last Sunday after Epiphany

26 February 2017

Sentence

Suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!' *Matthew 17.5*

Collect

Friend of Moses, strength of Elijah,
you go with your people and give them your Spirit:
may the Son of your heart transfigure the mortal world,
that love may know no bounds,
through Jesus Christ, the Beloved One. **Amen**

A reading from the book of the Exodus.

Exodus centres on the rescue of God's chosen people from captivity in Egypt and the making of the great covenant, or agreement with God, at Mount Sinai. This story of Moses' encounter with God's glory on Mount Sinai is so important that it is mentioned four times.

The LORD said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of

Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 24.12-18

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

ALL Thanks be to God

Psalm 15 at 8am APBA page 234

God's covenant with Israel brought with it the obligation to live justly in relation to others and to creation, since God is just in all his dealings with us. God's law, called Torah in Hebrew, is not a legal code but a 'way' or 'teaching' about the integrity of a person's life in community and individually.

A reading from the second letter of Peter

The author wrote this letter because he realized that he was approaching death and wished to leave to his fellow Christians a testimony. It is unlikely to have been Peter the apostle since the letter is dated around 90AD. However, the message is to be heeded: our faith in Jesus is reliable since it is handed on in the community and is in continuity with God's earlier relationship with humanity.

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter 1.16-21

Reader May your word live in us
ALL **and bear much fruit to your glory.**

Gospel Acclamation

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;
the mouth of the Lord has spoken

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL **And also with you**

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

ALL **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Moses and Elijah speak with Jesus about his departure – the word is exodus – which foreshadows the journey from death to transformed life that Jesus will make, not just for himself but for the whole creation. This event takes place as Jesus draws closer to Jerusalem and his coming passion. It is read today as the climax of the season of Epiphany in which Christ is revealed in various ways to all peoples.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them,

‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’
Mtt. 17.1-9

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer for the week

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Readings next week

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Ps. 32 Romans 5.12-21 Matthew 4.1-11

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Mariannus (Mac) Cuming, Barbara Edith Anthonisz, George Findlay, Heather Hume-Cook, Katherine Webster, John Eric Hoy, Keith Atkins, Jeffrey William McKie, Joyce Lyster and Joyce Granger, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.

February 27 George Herbert (1593-1633). Parish priest of Bemerton, Wiltshire. He is known as a religious poet; one of the first devotional poets of the Church of England. A number of his poems are now well loved hymns. As a child his mother was John Donne's patron and in adulthood he was a friend of Nicholas Ferrar of Little Gidding.

March 1 ASH WEDNESDAY The beginning of the season of Lent and time to recall our mortality and our human vocation to live in love with God and our neighbours.

March 2 Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, England. (died c.672).

A pupil of St Aidan at Lindisfarne, the community of monks who lived on Holy Island just off the coast of Northumbria. The island remains a pilgrimage site today and can be visited on foot at low tide.

