



## WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit [www.wepc.org/lectionary](http://www.wepc.org/lectionary).

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### Sunday, March 3, 2019

*The Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany: Transfiguration Sunday*

[Exodus 34:29-35](#) *His Face Shone*

[Psalm 99](#) *The LORD Answered Them*

[II Corinthians 3:12-4:2](#) *We Will Be Transformed*

[Luke 9:28-43a](#) *Jesus Transfigured*

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### Monday, March 4, 2019

[Psalm 35:11-28](#) *Be Not Far From Me*

[Exodus 35:1-29](#) *Offerings for the Tabernacle*

[Acts 10:9-23a](#) *What God Has Made Clean*

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### Tuesday, March 5, 2019

[Psalm 35:11-28](#) *Be Not Far From Me*

[Ezekiel 1:1- 2:1](#) *I Will Speak With You*

[Acts 10:23b-33](#) *You Have Been Commanded*

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### Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019

[Isaiah 58:1-12](#) *True Fasting*

[Psalm 51:1-17](#) *Broken & Contrite Heart*

[II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10](#) *Receive the Grace of God*

[Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#) *When You Give... Pray... Fast...*

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### Thursday, March 7, 2019

[Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#) *I Will*

[Exodus 5:10-23](#) *O Lord, Why Have You Done Evil?*

[Acts 7:30-34](#) *I Have Seen My People*

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### Friday, March 8, 2019

[Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#) *I Will*

[Exodus 6:1-13](#) *Strong Hand*

[Acts 7:35-42](#) *In Their Hearts They Turned to Egypt*

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### Saturday, March 9, 2019

[Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#) *I Will*

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-8](#) *A Time For Every Matter*

[John 12:27-36](#) *I Have Come To This Hour*

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## **Mountain & Plain**

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 9:28-43a](#)

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

<sup>37</sup> On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup> And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. <sup>39</sup> And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. <sup>40</sup> And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."<sup>41</sup> Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." <sup>42</sup> While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup> And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

"Preach Christ Jesus the Lord. Determine to know nothing among your people, but Christ crucified. Let his name and grace, his spirit and love, triumph in the midst of all your sermons. Let your great end be, to glorify him in the heart, to render him amiable and precious in the eyes of his people, to lead them to him, as a sanctuary to protect them, a propitiation to reconcile them, a treasure to enrich them, a physician to heal them, an advocate to present them and their services to god, as wisdom to counsel them, as righteousness to justify, as sanctification to renew, as redemption to save. Let Christ be the diamond to shine in the bosom of all your sermons." (*Charles Bridges*)

These are the "sayings" referenced in [Luke 9:28](#): "And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, 'The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.' And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.'" ([Luke 9:21-27](#))

- What exactly is the point of The Transfiguration?
  - Departures: Moses, Elijah, Jesus (which He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem)
  - Peter wants everyone to stay
  - Jesus will keep speaking of his departure
  
- What does the Father say? Not "Look", but "Listen"
  - He is the chosen one, sent to defeat sin and death so that He would rise and you and I in Him rise also.
  - "That's what they needed to listen to, for before long they would be back on a mountain with Jesus and with two others-- but instead of two prophets, it would be two criminals. Jesus' appearance would be altered that day too-- hideously. His body torn open from flogging, His head torn open by thorns, His hands and feet pierced with nails. They would see that, too, but not want to stay. No tents that day. They would hide together, in a room, behind locked doors, in fear. The glory of the transfiguration a distant memory....But if you listened...'Father, forgive them' ([Luke 23:34](#))...'Today, you will be with me in paradise' ([Luke 23:43](#)). Glorious words. Transfiguring words. Words which reveal the glory that is hidden. So notice what's going on here: In glory, Jesus speaks of death, and in death, He speaks of glory. And so we are told: "Listen to Him!" That is really great advice. That when you see glory in this world, or when glory comes upon you, to know that death will not be far behind. This glory will not last. But in the same way, when you see death, or when death comes upon you, to know that in Jesus, glory is not far away. Your death will not last, is not the end. You, too, will live. Listen to Him. In the highs and the lows, in the good times and the bad times, in glory or in shame, when you feel cursed or when you seem blessed, when the wind is at your back or in your face...Listen to Him. His promises. His Word which is the solid foundation we need to understand right; to avoid the roller coaster emotions and troubles of life. His Word which assures us that that in Him is life for the dead, forgiveness for sinners, comfort for the mourning, strength for the weak, love for the unloved, glory for your shame, care for the distressed. Jesus has what you need and will provide."
  
- When the scene is over, Jesus is still with Peter and John and James, and He still is at work.