

Last Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday, February 23, 2020

The Collect: O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Exodus 24:12-18 read from the Douay-Rheims Bible

12 And the Lord said to Moses: Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and the law, and the commandments which I have written: that thou mayst teach them.

13 Moses rose up, and his minister Josue: and Moses going up into the mount of God,

14 Said to the ancients: Wait ye here till we return to you. You have Aaron and Hur with you: if any question shall arise, you shall refer it to them.

15 And when Moses was gone up, a cloud covered the mount.

16 And the glory of the Lord dwelt upon Sinai, covering it with a cloud six days: and the seventh day he called him out of the midst of the cloud.

17 And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like a burning fire upon the top of the mount, in the eyes of the children of Israel.

18 And Moses, entering into the midst of the cloud, went up into the mountain: and he was there forty days, and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 2 or 99 both will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

Psalm 2

1 Why are the nations in an uproar? *

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, *

against the Lord and against his Anointed?

3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; *

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *

the Lord has them in derision.

5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *

and his rage fills them with terror.

6 "I myself have set my king *

upon my holy hill of Zion."

7 Let me announce the decree of the Lord: *

he said to me, "You are my Son;

this day have I begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for

your inheritance *

and the ends of the earth for your possession.

9 You shall crush them with an iron rod *

and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

10 And now, you kings, be wise; *

be warned, you rulers of the earth.

11 Submit to the Lord with fear, *

and with trembling bow before him;

12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

13 Happy are they all *

who take refuge in him!

Psalm 99

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 1:16-21 read from the God's Word Bible

16 When we apostles told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we didn't base our message on clever myths that we made up. Rather, we witnessed his majesty with our own eyes. 17 For example, we were eyewitnesses when he received honor and glory from God the Father and when the voice of our majestic God spoke these words to him: “This is my Son, whom I love and in whom I delight.” 18 We heard that voice speak to him from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You're doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts. 20 First, you must

understand this: No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation. 21 No prophecy ever originated from humans. Instead, it was given by the Holy Spirit as humans spoke under God's direction.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible

17 After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. 2 He was transformed in front of them, and His face shone like the sun. Even His clothes became as white as the light. 3 Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

4 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it's good for us to be here! If You want, I will make three tabernacles here: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said:

This is My beloved Son.

I take delight in Him.

Listen to Him!

6 When the disciples heard it, they fell facedown and were terrified.

7 Then Jesus came up, touched them, and said, "Get up; don't be afraid." 8 When they looked up they saw no one except Him—Jesus alone. 9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord

Closing Prayer: On February 26 we celebrate the life of Emily Malbone Morgan, Prophetic Witness. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.

Emily Malbone Morgan was born on December 10th, 1862, in Hartford, Connecticut. Her family were prominent Hartford citizens, and her Anglican roots ran deep on both sides of her family. With the support of Harriet Hastings, she was the founder of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross (SCHC), an order of Episcopal laywomen, in 1884. Rooted in

disciplined devotion, SCHC became a strong force for social justice reform during the social gospel era around the turn of the twentieth century.

A primary inspiration for Morgan was her friendship with Adelyn Howard. Howard was homebound and sought Morgan's support for both spiritual companionship and shared intercessory prayer for others. In response, Morgan called together a small group of women that became the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross.

Morgan had a particular concern for working women who were tired, restless, and had little hope for a vacation. In response, Morgan and her Companions developed summer vacation houses across the northeast, where working women and their daughters could have some time away for physical and spiritual renewal and refreshment.

In 1901, the Society established a permanent home in Byfield, Massachusetts. With the construction of new facilities on the site in 1915, it took the name Adelynrood, which continues to exist as the headquarters and retreat center of the Society.

Morgan never married; she and her sisters in the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross lived a life of prayer, contemplation, and social justice, particularly for women. She died on February 27th, 1937.

Let us pray: Gracious God, we give thanks for the life and witness of Emily Malbone Morgan, who gathered women to devote themselves to intercession, social justice, Christian unity, and simple lives: Make us, with her, companions in prayer and in faithful living, dedicated to the Holy Cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**