

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2026

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE COLLECT:

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

O God, who before the passion of your onlybegotten 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.***

THE FIRST READING - EXODUS 24:12-18

In the Bible, a cloud-topped mountain is a place of holiness - the very presence of God. This is the setting in which Moses received the Ten Commandments - a

moment of great awesomeness and a recording of one of the most significant and solemn events of the Old Testament.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Exodus, Chapter twenty-four, beginning at the twelfth verse.

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.

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 99

The holy and mighty Lord reigns on high. God spoke to Israel's leaders from a pillar of cloud and has forgiven them for their misdeeds.

- 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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son:*
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:*
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING - 2 PETER 1:16-21

The Transfiguration of Jesus is told in each of the first three gospels and here in this epistle, whose author was with Jesus on that occasion.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Second Letter of Peter, Chapter 1, beginning at the sixteenth verse.

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 honor 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.

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL - MATTHEW 17:1-9

The disciples' vision on a cloud-topped mountain was of great significance to them in their growing insight as to who their Master really was. The occasion is called the Transfiguration of Christ.

Gospeler: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Gospeler: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.

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."

This is the Gospel of Christ

The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.

(NRSV)

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