

**Daily Office Devotional, Friday, October 26, 2020**  
**Proper 23, the week of the nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. David W. Perkins, Th.D.**

Today we celebrate the Feast of Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomas Cranmer. (See below.)

Daily Office Lectionary Readings:

AM Psalm 16, 17; PM Psalm 22

Ecclus. 1:1-10, 18-27; Acts 28:1-16; Luke 9:28-36

Morning Prayer, Rite 2, page 75, Book of Common Prayer

Evening Prayer, Rite 2, page 115, Book of Common Prayer

Compline (Night Prayer), Page 127, Book of Common Prayer

Daily Office Gospel, Luke 9:28-36

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah' —not knowing what he said. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

David's Reflections

How fully can God's presence be hidden and concealed in a human life? Jesus' followers in today's Gospel were privy to an outshining of God's hidden radiance in his life. In the Transfiguration, Jesus' physical appearance changed; God's glory seemed to shine out through his pores, through his clothing.

In one of his parables, Jesus commends people in the final judgment for providing him with food, clothing, and ministry. They respond in shock, “When did we see you hungry or thirsty?” Jesus’ answer, “If you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25). Jesus was present in the lives of the needy, but those who ministered to them did not know it.

Genesis 1 says that we have been created in God’s image. Yet, we can be blind to God’s presence and image within us just as we can be blind to it in others. It is far easier to focus on our negatives—recurring sins, fears, dark desires, and doubts. What floats on the surface of a river does not define it.

Jesus’ followers were weary and sleepy, but they managed to stay awake and saw Jesus’ glory. God’s hidden, layered presence becomes evident at God’s initiative, not ours. We cannot discover God by searching. Ours is to remain awake and curious and watchful. Ours is to believe that God’s presence lies just beyond the reach of our vision. Only then will we see around us, in others, and in ourselves the God who otherwise wraps the divine presence in mystery and absence, and that seeing will be God's gift.

Earth's

crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God;  
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes--  
The rest sit round it and pluck black-  
berries,  
And daub their natural faces unaware  
More and more from the first similitude. \*

\* Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Aurora Leigh," Bk VII, lines 813-826. *The Poetical Works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*. Cambridge Edition. With a New Introduction by Ruth M. Adams (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1974), p.372.

*Collect of the Day: Proper 23, the nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* (BCP, 234-235)

Today we celebrate the Feast of Today we celebrate the Feast of Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomas Cranmer, bishops and martyrs (died 16 Oct. 1555, 16 Oct 1555, and 21 Mar 1556, respectively).

[http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Latimer\\_Ridley\\_Cranmer.htm](http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Latimer_Ridley_Cranmer.htm)

*Collect of the Feast of Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomas Cranmer*

Keep us, O Lord, constant in faith and zealous in witness, that, like your servants Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomas Cranmer we may live in your fear, die in your favor, and rest in your peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Fridays*

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. *Amen.* (BCP, 123)

*For those in the Armed Forces of our Country*

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP, 823)

*In the Evening*

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen.* (BCP, 833)

*A Collect for Mission*

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* (BCP, 816-817)