

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Transfiguration Sunday - February 27, 2022

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #95 - "How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

**How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.**

**How good, Lord, to be here
Your beauty to behold,
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Your messengers of old.**

**Fulfiller of the past,
Promise of things to be,
We hail your body glorified
And our redemption see.**

**Before we taste of death,
We see your kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright
And make this hill our home.**

**How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant

us forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not realize that the skin of his face was shining because he had been speaking with the Lord. When Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, they were amazed that the skin of his face was shining, so they were afraid to come close to him. Moses called to them, so Aaron and all the rulers of the community returned to him, and Moses spoke to them. Afterward, all the people of Israel came close to him, and he gave them all of the commands that the Lord had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. When Moses was finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out again. Then he would come out and tell the people of Israel what he had been commanded. Whenever the people of Israel saw Moses' face, they would see that the skin of Moses' face was shining. Then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with the Lord again. (EHV)

Psalm 148

Refrain: Forever let us sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Praise the LORD from the 'heavens,
Praise him in the 'heights above.**

**Praise him, all his 'angels,
Praise him, all his 'heavenly hosts.**

**Praise him, 'sun and moon,
Praise him, all you 'shining stars.**

Refrain: Forever let us sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Praise the LORD 'from the earth,
Lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his 'bidding,**

**You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all 'cedars,
Wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and 'flying birds,**

**Kings of the earth and all rul'ers on earth,
Young men and maidens, old men and 'children.**

**Let them praise the name 'of the LORD,
For his splendor is above the earth and the 'heavens.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son
And to the Holy 'Spirit,
As it was in the be'ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain: Forever let us sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

If the ministry that brought death (which was engraved in letters on stone) came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look directly at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face (though it was fading), how will the ministry of the spirit not be much more glorious? For if the ministry that brought condemnation has glory, the ministry that brought righteousness has even more glory. In fact, in this case, what was glorious is no longer very glorious, because of the greater glory of that which surpasses it. Indeed, if what is fading away was glorious, how much more glorious is that which is permanent! Therefore, since we have this kind of hope, we act with great boldness. We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the Israelites could not continue to look at the end of the radiance, as it was fading away. In spite of this, their minds were hardened. Yes, up to the present day, the same veil remains when the Old Testament is read. It has not been removed because it is taken away only in Christ. Instead, to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts. But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the

Lord is, there is freedom. But all of us who reflect the Lord's glory with an unveiled face are being transformed into his own image, from one degree of glory to another. This too is from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. A cloud covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

About eight days after he said these words, Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothing became dazzling white. Just then, two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him! They appeared in glory and were talking about his departure, which he was going to bring to fulfillment in Jerusalem. Peter and those with him were weighed down with sleep, but when they were completely awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let's make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not realize what he was saying. While he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them. They were afraid as they went into the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" After the voice had spoken, they found Jesus alone. They kept this secret and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen. (EHV)

The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #390 (CW21) - *“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”*

**Jesus, take us to the mountain,
Where with Peter, James, and John,
We are dazzled by your glory,
Light as blinding as the sun.
There prepare us for the night
By the vision of that sight.**

**What do you want us to see there
That your close companions saw?
Your divinity revealed there
Fills us with the self-same awe.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go,
Matched to meet our deadliest foe.**

**What do you want us to hear there
That your dear disciples heard?
Once again the voice from heaven
Says of the incarnate Word:
“Listen, listen, ev’ryone;
This is my beloved Son.”**

**Take us to that other mountain
Where we see you glorified,
Where you shouted, “It is finished!”
Where for all the world you died.
Hear the stunned centurion:
“Truly this was God’s own Son.”**

**We who have beheld your glory,
Risen and ascended Lord,
Cannot help but tell the story,
All that we have seen and heard,
Say with Peter, James, and John:
“You are God’s beloved Son.”**

**The Sermon: Luke 9:28-36
 “The Hidden God Revealed”**

In today's sermon, we're going to take a **walk** with Peter, James, and John, to the Mount of **Transfiguration**. On this mountain, we can learn a lot of things about our God - who He **is**, and what He **does**. On this mountain we can find **The Hidden God Revealed**. But before we hike up the **mountain**, we need to spend some time with these disciples on the **plain**. Our text this morning begins, "*About eight days after he said **these words** ...*" What **was** it that Jesus had said to His disciples, that was so **important**? The account of the **transfiguration** comes right on the heels of a **private** discussion which Jesus had with His disciples. At that time, **Peter** had made a wonderful confession of his **faith** that Jesus truly was the **Christ**, the Son of the living **God**. It was just **moments** later when Jesus dropped a **bombshell** on His disciples. He said, "*The Son of Man must **suffer** many things and be **rejected** by the elders, chief priests and experts in the law. He must be **killed** and be **raised** on the third day.*"

We can only imagine the **shock** and **dismay** those followers of Jesus must have felt when they heard those words. They had been soaring **high - confident** that they had found the **Messiah - confident** that they had found the One who would **restore** the earthly kingdom of Israel to **glory**. But here Jesus told them that He had come to the earth to **suffer** and **die**, and that raised a lot of **questions** in their minds. How could that **be**? Was He really the **Christ**? Where was He **leading** them? What was about to **happen**?

For the next eight days or so, these **doubts** and **uncertainties** swirled around in the minds of the disciples, as Jesus unfolded for them the true meaning of His **mission** on the earth. It was in the middle of this uncertainty and disillusionment that Jesus led His disciples to the base of the **mountain** in our text. In spite of any **mixed** feelings they might have had, when Jesus asked Peter, James and John to hike up the mountain **with** Him, they went **along**. And it was a **good** thing that they **did**, because on that mountain, Jesus, whose true identity seemed to be somewhat **cloudy** and **hidden** at this time, would make Himself **known** in a **spectacular** way.

Do you ever feel as though you are following a **hidden** God - a God whose ways don't always seem to make **sense** to you? You wouldn't be the **first** person to ever feel that way. Even the Prophet **Isaiah** once marveled: "*Indeed, you are a God who **hides** himself.*" More often than not, this feeling comes when we're in the middle of **suffering**, or when we're experiencing some kind of **problem** in life. It's hard to understand how God could allow someone who is very **close** to us to be **taken away** before we feel that we're **ready**. What kind of a God allows a **wife** to be taken away from her **husband** and young **children**? What kind of a God allows

thousands of people to perish in events like those of September 11, 2001? Why does God keep Himself **hidden**? Why don't His ways always make **sense** to us?

It would be **great** if everything always made **sense**. It would be **great** if God showed up here today, and **answered** all of our **questions**. It would be **great** if God would **show** Himself more visibly in the **world**, so we could be **more certain** that we're still on the **right track**. Maybe He could even work a **miracle** or **two** to drive some of the **questions** and **doubts** out of our minds. But He doesn't **do** that, and He **won't** do that, because that's **not** who He **is**. And although that may be **upsetting**, and we may get **frustrated** with God at times, the root problem lies with **us** - **not** with God. It's our own **sinful** and **selfish** desire to have God **reveal** Himself in the ways **we** want, rather than simply being **content** and to **appreciate** the way God **does** reveal Himself - through His **Son**, and in His **Word**.

Listen again to what the disciples experienced on the Mount of Transfiguration: *"While (Jesus) was praying, the appearance of his face **changed**, and his clothing became dazzling **white**. Just then, two men, **Moses** and **Elijah**, were talking with him! They appeared in **glory** and were talking about his **departure**, which he was going to bring to **fulfillment** in Jerusalem. Peter and those with him were weighed down with **sleep**, but when they were completely **awake**, they saw his **glory** and the two men standing with him."* What an **amazing** sight the Lord allowed these disciples to see. There before them were **Moses** and **Elijah** - two men whom they had only read about in the **Scriptures** - and they were talking with **Jesus**. All **three** of them appeared in **glory** - glory which went far **beyond** anything they had seen before. I think it's interesting to note the **role** which Moses and Elijah played in **God's** salvation history. **Moses** actually wrote the first **five** books of the Bible - and he represented God's holy **law** - while **Elijah** represented the Old Testament **prophets**. These two prominent men were talking with **Jesus** about his upcoming **suffering** and **death** which would bring all of the things they had **foretold** to **fulfillment**. And Peter, James, and John were allowed to **listen in** on some of this miraculous conversation.

But, this fantastic experience wasn't going to **last** for very long, because it wasn't the Lord's **purpose** to have these disciples **basking** in His **glory** on that mountain. That becomes **clear** as our text **continues**: *"As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, 'Master, it is **good** for us to **be** here. Let's make three **tents**: one for **you**, one for **Moses**, and one for **Elijah**.' He did not **realize** what he was saying. While he was saying these things, a **cloud** came and **overshadowed** them. They were **afraid** as they went into the cloud. Then a **voice** came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my **Son**, whom I love. **Listen to him!**'"* That was the **main**

point which the disciples were supposed to take away from this experience. **Listen to Jesus**. No matter how **difficult** His teachings might sound - no matter how His words might **clash** with their own **expectations** - they needed to **listen to Jesus**. He is God's **Son**, sent from heaven to **suffer** and **die** to pay for the sins of the world. Jesus wanted His disciples to be **content** with that message - a message which they had received from **Moses** and the **prophets**, and now also from **God Himself**.

We **also** need to be content with the message which God has revealed to **us**. Everything we need to know about our **Savior** and the **salvation** which He brings, has been **revealed** to us in God's **Word**. In that Word, God has provided **us** with a way to hear Moses and the prophets **speak**. In that Word, God enables **us** to see **Jesus** in all His **glory**, and to hear Him **speak** about His suffering, death and resurrection. Sometimes, we'd like to see and hear even **more**, as if what we **have** just isn't **enough**. But it's important for us to **appreciate** how **generous** our God has been with us, in making known to us in the pages of the Bible our **Savior** and His plan of **salvation**.

Without God's Word, we wouldn't know the joy of **forgiveness**, and we would be left trying to **please God** and earn His **favor** by doing good works - none of which would accomplish **anything**. But with God's Word, we can be **certain** that God is **pleased** with us - **not** because of anything **we** have done, but because of the work of His Son, **Jesus**. God's Word reveals to us Jesus' mission of **love** - His innocent **suffering** - His sacrificial **death** - and His glorious **resurrection**. And God's Word reveals to us what this mission of love **means** to us. Through Jesus we have **forgiveness** for our sins, **peace** with our Heavenly Father, and the **certainty** of eternal life in heaven.

This is the message which **satisfies** our deepest needs, and it is **enough**. As long as we're on **this** side of heaven, we'll never know **everything** there is to know about our God and His ways - nor should we **expect** to. For **now**, our God **chooses** to remain **hidden**, because nothing **impure** is able to **endure** His full glory. But He enables us to get a **glimpse** of that glory through His **Son**, whom He has **revealed** in His Word. In **Jesus** we have **The Hidden God Revealed** to us, and for **now**, we need to be content with that. But, the day is coming when we will finally arrive at our home in **heaven**, and then we know God **fully** even as we are fully **known** by Him. So until then, let's be **satisfied** with the grace which God has shown to us, and let's cling to what we **know** - to what we have **seen** and **heard** about our God and His love in the **Scriptures**. Let's **rejoice** in the **miracles** that we can witness - miracles of **faith**, and **hope**, and **peace**. And let's **thank** our God for revealing

Himself to us as our **Savior**, because that knowledge provides us with **everything** we need. Amen.

Prayers:

Heavenly Father, who on the Mount of Transfiguration revealed Jesus in His **unveiled** divine majesty, and by wonderful testimony out of the cloud **declared** Him to be **Your Son** whom You **love**, help us always to **believe** and **confess** that Jesus is **God**, to the glory of Your name. In commanding us to **listen** to Your Son, You have placed Your divine blessing on **all** that He has spoken. Grant us grace to hear His wonderful words of salvation with steadfast **faith**, so that we do not **dread** His final coming or **fear** His judgment. Gracious Father, to know Christ by **faith**, is to know Your **love**, to possess Your **forgiveness**, and to share with all saints the hope of **everlasting life**. We thank You for giving us this **knowledge** and **faith**.

O Jesus, although You were **glorified** on the mountain, nevertheless, You **humbled** Yourself even to the point of **dying** on the cross for our transgressions. Make us willing to suffer for **You**, to risk **all** that we have - even our **lives** - in order that we might better **confess** Your name and teach Your **Gospel** to others.

Lord Jesus, those on the mountain were **happy** to see Your glory for even a passing **moment**. How blessed all of **us** will be to spend **eternity** with You in heaven. Therefore, graciously **grant** us eternal life, **forgiving** our sins, **erasing** our doubts, **destroying** all confidence in our own merit, and **increasing** our trust in You through Your Word of Truth. **Comfort** us with the bright hope of Your coming. Take care of our various **needs**, and preserve us from **all** things which may bring us harm. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn #97 - "Down from the Mount of Glory"

**Down from the mount of glory came Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Recall the wondrous story, rich gem in sacred Word.
Again your faith will view him in double glory here;
The greater homage due hi will in your life appear.**

**Transfigured, Christ, the lowly, stood radiant in the light,
Light found in Godhead solely, for human eyes too bright.
Then came a voice from heaven, confirmed what here we see;
The words "my Son" were given to seal his deity.**

**Yet mark this glory hidden! See him the mount descent
And, by the Father bidden, his willing footsteps bend
To seek humiliation in deepest depths of woe,
To suffer degradation no mind can probe or know.**

**Strange how his journey ended! In love that is his fame
Our Lord again ascended a mount - the hill of shame.
Upon the cross he proffered himself to agony;
His holy soul he offered to set the guilty free.**

**Then hail the double glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
And let the wondrous story full peace and joy afford!
The holy mount acclaims him the majesty divine;
Mount Calvary proclaims him Redeemer - yours and mine.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn #239 - "Glory Be to God the Father"

**Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory while eternal ages run!**

**Glory be to him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to him who bought us,
Made us kings with him to reign!
Glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain!**

**Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations;
Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory to the King of glory sing!**

**Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!
Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!**