

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Peaks and Valleys

The Transfiguration of our Lord

The Transfiguration of Jesus is the hinge between Epiphany and Lent.

Jesus was revealed as the divine-human Savior of all nations at the Epiphany. The shining mountain peak points to the dark but more glorious mount at the end of the Lenten journey.

Jesus is revealed again in His divine glory before He heads to Jerusalem to die and rise. Christ's transfiguration, like His resurrection, gives us a peek at the endless glory that will be ours who have been made co-heirs with the King in His glory and will receive the fullness of our inheritance in heaven.



Prelude

9:00am: #537, Beautiful Savior

**1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus
shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!**

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
Text: Public domain

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The King in His might loves justice.

**C: You have established equity, You have executed justice and righteousness
in Jacob.**

P: Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy mountain;

C: for the Lord our God is Holy!

Silence for reflection.

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for me,
have mercy upon me and for His sake grant me remission of all my sins; and
by Your Holy Spirit increase in me true knowledge of You and of Your will and
true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace I may come to
everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray.

C: O Lord, our God, You shone Your love to us through Your Son and in His light is our hope and joy. Take us up to the mountain of His brightness that when we descend in the valleys of our lives, His light may remain upon us to guide our way. Grant that we may receive the testimony of Moses and Elijah fulfilled in Christ and make known Christ's light to the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

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 know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Jesus Loves Me - duet

2 Corinthians 3:12–18; 4:1–6

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from

one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

9:00am: #411, I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love
Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming
spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit
sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and
honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!**

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
Text: Public domain

Mark 9:2-9

P: The Holy Gospel and Sermon Text according to St. Mark, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

After six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son; listen to Him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the

mountain, He charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

9:00am: #414, 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy glory fills the night; Thy face and garments, like the sun, Shine with unborrowed light.

2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beauty to behold Where Moses and Elijah stand, Thy messengers of old.

3 Fulfiller of the past And hope of things to be, We hail Thy body glorified And our redemption see.

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

5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain; But since Thou bidst us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.
Text: Public domain

The Sermon *Peaks and Valleys*

P: Please rise and join me as we profess our faith,

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children:

P: Lord, in Your mercy **C: hear our prayer**

P: ...through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. 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.

P: Alleluia, said the prophets of old,

C: Christ is coming, prepare His way.

P: Alleluia, said angels and shepherds,

C: Christ is born, the Word made flesh is come to earth.

P: Alleluia, said the Magi from the East,

C: Christ is King, bow down in worship and bring offerings to Him.

P: Alleluia, said the Baptizer John,

C: Christ is here, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

P: Alleluia, said the servants and disciples,

C: Christ is Lord, revealed clearly in water changed to wine.

P: Alleluia, said the people,

C: Christ is Messiah, fulfilled of God's promise and the prophets' word.

P: Alleluia, said the fishermen,

C: Christ is Master, follow Him and fish for men.

P: Alleluia, said the sick and suffering,

C: Christ is healer, trust Him for healing and hope in Him for life brand new.

P: Alleluia, said Moses and Elijah,

C: Christ is God, the Light of Light has come to shine on us the love from on high.

P: Alleluia, said the apostles, standing on the mountain high,

C: Christ is shining, in this glory let us stay.

P: Alleluia, said the Savior,

C: Down the mount I must go and meet the death that awaits me in the valley below.

P: Alleluia, bids the Savior, follow Me and be not afraid,

C: Christ reveals greater glory hidden in the cross and grave; there we find salvation's story and there we find the hope which saves.

9:00am: #417, Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Alleluia, song of gladness, Voice of joy that cannot die; Alleluia is the anthem. Ever raised by choirs on high; In the house of God abiding Thus they sing eternally.

2 Alleluia, thou resoundest, True Jerusalem and free; Alleluia, joyful mother, All thy children sing with thee, But by Babylon's sad waters Mourning exiles now are we.

3 Alleluia cannot always Be our song while here below; Alleluia, our transgressions Make us for a while forgo; For the solemn time is coming When our tears for sin must flow.

**4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, blessed Trinity, At the last to keep
Thine Easter With Thy faithful saints on high; There to Thee forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.**

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Postlude