

Mark 9:2-9

February 10, 2018

“Shining Glorious for You
Transfiguration Sunday

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Pastor Hartwig

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God, Our Heavenly Fathers
And Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

[Introduction]

There's much more to Jesus than meets the eye.

Peter, James, and John saw with their own eyes what we confess by faith.

The babe of Bethlehem, the carpenter of Nazareth, the itinerant preacher
is “God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God.”

They saw His glory, at least a glimpse.

John wrote about it: *“We beheld His glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14).

Peter wrote about it: *“For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,’ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain”* (2 Peter 1:17).

On the mountain a TRANSFIGURATION. A METAMORPHOSIS.

A change in Christ's outward appearance happened.

It's the same Jesus the three apostles had always seen.

But now His appearance changes.

HE GLOWS WITH THE GLORY OF GOD!

HIS DIVINITY IS SHOWING! SHINING ALL OVER THE PLACE!

Jesus is indeed the light. Light of Light.

When Jesus' divinity flashes on the mountain,

the light was not coming from outside but from the inside.

His divinity hidden in, with, and under His humanity glitters forth.

The radiance of Jesus was the glow of His glory as the only Son of the Father.

This is the divine hidden glory of His incarnation – His enfleshment.

Jesus, the eternal Son of God,

in all His glory is hidden beneath His humble humanity. **VERY GOD OF VERY GOD**

If you bumped into Jesus on the street,
you would not have seen anything unusual about Him.
He would blend into a crowd.
No one would shout out: “Hey! Look at Him! He’s God!”

Yet the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Jesus.
The finite contains the Infinite. The Creator become the created.

However, for this fleeting moment on the mountain,
Peter, James and John catch a glimpse of Jesus’ shining divine glory.

Not full blast! That would have blinded and destroyed them.
No one can bear the full blast sight of God in this life.
Nonetheless, it was enough of a look to let them know that there was more to Jesus
than meets the eye.

[*More*]

Jesus is preparing the disciples for the sorrowful road ahead.
Jesus is preparing them for when He will travel to another mountain: Mount Calvary.

That would not be glorious.
Instead of light, there would be deep darkness.
Instead of life, there would be a graveyard death.
Instead of glory, there would be defeat.
Instead of the Father’s voice from heaven, there would be silence.
Instead of the Father’s gracious presence, there would only be abandonment.

This time...

Only John would be there to watch.
Peter would deny Jesus three times and
James, probably like the rest, didn’t dare to be seen
or associated with Suffering-and-Dying-on-the-Cross-Jesus.

Well, as soon as they climbed down the mountain,
Jesus emphatically and categorically teaches that
He will ... suffer bitterly, die crucifixion-ly and rise gloriously after three days.
The revealed glory of the transfiguration pointed to the hidden glory of the cross
— the hidden glory of Christ’s victory over sin by becoming sin
— His conquering death by dying
— His fulfilling the law by being accused and cursed by the law.

Well, that's precisely why Moses and Elijah are there.
They're chatting with Jesus, as Luke puts it, about His "departure," or "exodus."

Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the true Exodus whereby Jesus delivers you,
His people, the new Israel, from the slavery of sin and the darkness of death.

Moses and Elijah preached this glory to the people of Israel.
Now Moses and Elijah bear witness to Peter, James and John
that Jesus is the fulfillment of their preaching.

Well, Peter wants to keep Jesus on the mountain. Can you blame him?
He wants to maintain the momentous mountain top moment.
Enshrine it with three tents or tabernacles.
It is what everyone would do. You too.
Preserve the vision. Make a shrine to it.
BUT you can't enshrine a vision like this.

Shining, Transfigured, Glowing Jesus is wonderful, glorious, amazing, awesome.
But that's not the way Jesus saves you.

He doesn't save you with displays of power and glory.
He saves you by scandalously becoming your sin and humiliating-ly dying on the cross.

Your old Adam, your sinful nature, loves the glory.
The old Adam is a glory addict
who seeks a shining Jesus, a glorious Jesus, a power Jesus.

However, the faith that saves and justifies before God is built on nothing less than
Jesus Christ and His righteousness.

So it's salvationly important – salvationly necessary to listen to Jesus.
He alone has the words of eternal life.
He alone has a Baptism that saves you.
He alone has a Lord's Supper body and blood
that bring you forgiveness, life, and salvation.
He alone will raise you from the dead on the Last Day.
Moses and Elijah needed Christ to live.
They trusted in Christ.
They bore witness to Christ.

Hear the voice, "***This is the beloved Son of God, listen to Him!***"

[For You]

With the hearing of Christ's Word comes your own transfiguration too.

The Scripture says that you too are being transfigured,
changed "from glory to glory" by the Spirit,
being renewed by the transforming of our minds in Christ Jesus.

Just as the divinity of Jesus was hidden beneath the weakness of His humanity,	so the new man in Christ, your new nature, spelled F-A-I-T-H is hidden under the weakness of the old Adam.
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Your "mount of transfiguration" comes on the Last Day, and not one day sooner, when the Lord will raise you and you will appear in bodies as glorious as His, perfectly reflecting the light of His glory without the stain of sin.

This is the message at the graveside service and the conclusion of the creed.

In the meantime, as you live your lives on this earth,
let your light so shine before men
so that they will see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

[Conclusion]

Today, Epiphany is complete. The season has come to an end.

Each week we saw more and more of the divinity of Jesus.
He is not just a man. I had an Epiphany. Jesus is also God.

On the mount of Transfiguration you see the
divinity shining through the humanity of Jesus.

Furthermore, the transfiguration of Jesus seen on the mount is yours someday.

The mystery of your own transformation from glory to glory,
as day by day you die to sin and live to righteousness in Christ,
is your own reality.

Your future is glorious!

It is as glorious as Jesus shining on the mountain which He does FOR YOU. Amen.

"Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good
that you may do his will, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.
Amen." (Heb 13:20-21)
