

Luke 9:
“Listen to Him”
Transfiguration Sunday

February 7, 2016
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Pastor Hartwig

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

[**Introduction**] Transfiguration Sunday!
 There He is. High on the mountain.
 With Peter, James and John.
Let there be no more doubting. No more. None.
 You have had an epiphany! Jesus is God in the flesh.

[**Look**] Look at Him! Just look at Him!
 His divinity is showing! It’s leaking out all over the place.
 His clothes are dazzling white!
 Lightning white. Pure white. Heavenly white. DIVINE white.

Luke tells us that Jesus’ **“face changed and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning,”** (Luke 9:29).

“As I looked,” the prophet Daniel says, **“thrones were set in place and the Ancient of Days [that’s the Lord] took his seat.”**
 Now listen carefully. It connects us to Transfiguration Mountain. **“His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool,”** (Dan 7:9).

And listen to St. John’s description of Jesus as He reigns. **“The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow,”** (Revelation 1:14).
 Again, it’s the heavenly white. DIVINE white!

And so, lo and behold, Jesus is transfigured on the mountain.

His divinity is showing full blast! And indeed! In, with and under
 Jesus the “kingdom of God has come with power,” (Mark 9:1).

That’s precisely why Moses and Elijah are there.
They are the two greatest prophets of the Old Testament.
They prophesied and promised that God Himself would reign on earth.
 That God would personally establish His kingdom on earth.
 That God would save His people and the world.
 And now ... it’s all being fulfilled in Jesus!

They see God doing His kingdom of God reign with their own eyes!
Now, on the mountain the prophets once again bear witness to Jesus.

Like any faithful preacher does! Jesus fulfills all their prophecies.
The divine kingdom has come. God reigns. Salvation of the world has arrived.
All you have to do is look at Jesus.

[*Temporary*]

Or do you? The looking lasted only for a while.

After Peter's suggestion of three tents,
“a cloud appeared and covered them.”

That's the glory cloud!
The cloud of God's heavenly divine presence!

Just like in the Old Testament. You know. In Exodus. When the ***“cloud covered the tent of meeting and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle ... In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out – until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels,”*** (Ex 40:36-38).

So now on Transfiguration Mountain
the “glory cloud” of God the Father's presence covers them.

The Father of our Lord Jesus speaks.
Just like He did at Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan.
“This is my Son. I love Him. Listen to him!”

Did you hear that? The looking at Jesus ends.
The transfiguration with His Son of God divinity showing full blast
lasted only for a moment.

Now, we, together with Peter, James and John are given orders.
The divine command. From God the Father.
“Jesus is my Son whom I love. Listen to Him!”

Now is the time of hearing! That's exactly why the Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have recorded what Jesus preached and taught.

[Listen]

"Listen to Him!" That's the entire point of Transfiguration Mountain.

"Listen to Him!" "Because He's my Son," the Father says.

And, "as my Son I'm absolutely delighted, pleased and thrilled by His divine words and His divine actions that He speaks and does FOR YOU."

"Listen to Him!"

Because Jesus is the one who gives Himself into death FOR YOU!

Jesus bears all your sin in His body on the cross.

Incredibly, Jesus, who knew no sin was "made to be sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21)!

Consequently, He experienced His Father's entire wrath against all your sin.

He was made to be a "curse," (Galatians 3:13).

He was damned! FOR YOU! That's when He proclaimed: "IT IS FINISHED!"

The salvation job for you was accomplished. Won. Achieved.

So I warn you. The Father's "Listen to Him!" is salvation-ally serious.

You don't have better words than Jesus! Really! You don't!

Jesus' words are divine. Yours are not.

Jesus' words are perfect and pure. Yours aren't.

As you, the new Israel, travel in and through this wilderness world on the way to the Promised Land of Heaven, you are given to: "Listen to Him!"

Listen to Jesus and you have salvation.

Listen. Jesus categorically promises: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved," (Mark 16:16).

What a promise! With all heaven and earth authority that Jesus has been given!
And it's just FOR YOU.

You're baptized. He gave you His divine Name and the faith He calls for.
Therefore, He promises: YOU WILL BE SAVED!

Salvation includes the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting!

[Church]

At the beginning of every divine service you are given the opportunity to “Listen to Him!” To use the language of Exodus 40 and today’s text, He “clouds” or overshadows you with a promise that you never would expect or deserve as a sinner.

To you, His sinners, He emphatically declares the absolution through the mouth of your pastor!

“In the stead 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.”

His word does and gives what it says!

Your sin – all of it – is forgiven!

Not counted against you because all your sin and every bit of its damnation were counted against Jesus as He hung FOR YOU on the bloody altar of the cross.

In just a few minutes there is more “Listening to Him!”

With His words is His living voice: Jesus speaks to you in the Supper.

He speaks through His words! That’s the entire point of the Words of Institution and why the pastor faces you as He says them. He is there FOR YOU – God FOR YOU – SAVIOR FOR YOU with His words.

“This [bread] is my body ... This [wine] is my blood of the new testament which is poured out for many” (Mk 14:22, 24). ***It is “given and poured out FOR YOU” “for the forgiveness of your sin”*** (Mt 26:28; Lk 22:19-20)!

[Conclusion]

Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation!

That’s exactly why the Father commands you to “Listen to Him.”

That’s what Transfiguration Mountain is all about. You’re salvation is at stake.

So, “Listen to Him!” Amen.

Now, let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Amen!