

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 15, 2026



He is the Hope and saving Light of lands benighted; By Him are they who dwelt in night fed and lighted. He is Israel's praise and bliss, their joy, reward, and glory.

– Martin Luther –

Hymn Text: “In Peace and Joy I Now Depart”

PROCLAMATION POINTS

The following are some thoughts and questions to be used for a text study on the weekly lessons, or for jump-starting the imagination of the preacher and hearer in preparing for the proclamation event.

First Lesson: Exodus 24:8-18

Just before this passage begins, Moses had read the law publicly to Israel. In response to that reading they vow to the Lord that they will be obedient to his will. Moses then sacrifices a young bull on the altar and sprinkles the people with the blood of the covenant which seals the deal. Afterwards God calls Moses to come up to the top of Mt. Sinai where he gives the stone tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments. For forty days and forty nights Moses is in the cloud with the Lord. As the people look on this all-consuming fire, they experience a “theophany” — a manifestation of God’s presence.

- In what ways is God revealing something very important to Israel as he calls Moses to the mountaintop?
- What would you expect to see in a face-to-face encounter with God?

As the vision of God is revealed, Scripture points out in verse 11 that none of the elders died! (i.e. “God did not raise his hand against them.”)

- Compare what Jacob says in Genesis 32:30 after his encounter with God. Why would this be so surprising?
- What does all this say about the raw power of God?

Psalms 2:6-11

“You are my son; today I have begotten you.” These words ring out in a new way on the Day of Transfiguration. What may once have described David or another Israelite king, is now linked to Jesus, God in the flesh. The true ruler of Israel, the one anointed by God, demonstrates total faithfulness, a right relationship with the Father from beginning to end. He trusts in the Lord to provide for him, rather than relying on his own strength. Those who reject God’s rule will experience his wrath. It is only in the Lord himself that refuge is to be found. To be outside of the Lord is to be outside of his mercy.

- How does this psalm shape our understanding of the events on the Mountain of Transfiguration? How is our understanding of this psalm shaped by the events on that mountain?

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21

As they waited for Christ to return, the people of the early church occasionally succumbed to doubt and fear. Countless teachers, with conflicting views of what God was doing in the world, vied for their loyalty. Peter contrasted

these teachers, and their cleverly devised myths, with the eyewitness reports they had been given of Christ Jesus and his power and authority.

Peter writes this letter to encourage believers to continue in the faith. He reminds them that as long as he is with them he will continue to tell them stories of Jesus so that their faith might be bolstered. The authority that Peter has to do this has been granted him by virtue of being with Jesus and seeing him in all of his glory. He and the other disciples had seen all that Christ said and did. They had heard the affirmation from heaven through the voice of God saying, “This is my Son, with him I am well pleased.”

- What is the benefit of hearing the stories of Jesus first hand from an eye-witness?
- Have you ever been strengthened by the witness of a fellow believer? What was that like and how did it help you grow in your own faith?

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9

In our gospel reading for this Sunday we hear the familiar story of the transfiguration of Jesus, whose appearance changed on the mountaintop to a glowing figure of light. Like the theophany on Mount Sinai, when God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, the disciples had the privilege of seeing Christ in all of his divinity and they were very afraid. They did not understand how to interpret what they were seeing.

- In the Small Catechism, Luther taught that we are to “fear and love God.” How can both these be true at the same time?
- Why is it important for us that we brought to God through Christ?
- Why does Jesus continually tell the disciples not to be afraid in these moments when God reveals who Jesus really is?

The prophets Moses and Elijah converse with Jesus on the mountain, but we never hear what it is that they speak about. All we hear is the voice of God affirming the true identity of his Son, and that we should “listen to him!” (v. 5). Despite their appearance in this important moment of revelation, finally, Moses and Elijah disappear. It is not their word we are called to, but the Word that is Christ.

- In the face of all that we are not told about God, why is it important to focus on what we are told?
- How do you think knowing the true divine identity of Jesus, and recognizing his light, help believers to see God more clearly in our lives?