

## Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world  
and grow disciples for Jesus



## Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

### Background:

This is known as the transfiguration of Jesus. It is the capstone to Jesus' ministry in Galilee following his baptism (This is my beloved Son...). Jesus is prepared to begin his exodus toward Jerusalem and the cross. Not only does this serve as a link back to the beginnings, but also pushes us toward the conclusion. We have with Jesus the same three disciples who journey with him into the garden, and once again they are sleepy. Is the Gospel asking us to see the fulness of Christ both in his transfiguration and his agony in the garden? Or might we be asleep as well?

### Theology Connection:

Luther would speak of a 'Theology of Glory' or a God who is revealed through signs and wonders as compared to his revelation witnessed in servanthood and sacrifice. The second is known as the 'Theology of the Cross.' In this Gospel Jesus comes down from the mountain, performs a healing that amazed all, but immediately Jesus turns the attention toward his passion. We want a God who comes in grandeur whereas the glory of Jesus is revealed in his death on a cross.

### Application:

It is hard to figure out what to do with the story of the Transfiguration. Yet maybe this is a story that reminds us that as Jesus was preparing for the most difficult journey of his life, he is affirmed as beloved. Maybe we can take comfort in knowing that as we face difficult choices that the Father will always be in our corner. God sees the beauty within us. God loves us.

### The Text: Luke 9: 28-45

<sup>28</sup>About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John, and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup>Two men, Moses, and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. <sup>31</sup>They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup>As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

<sup>34</sup>While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

<sup>37</sup>The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."

<sup>41</sup>"You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." <sup>42</sup>Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup>And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup>"Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men."

<sup>45</sup>But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

## ADULT

We interact with people all the time, even in the midst of a pandemic. Typically, however, we only see them as they would want us to see them or how we ourselves perceive them. What would it be like to see people as God sees them? Might it be a worthy experiment to try to see others through God's eyes? Can we see them as beloved by God as well?

## YOUTH

Please read Luke 9:28-45

I found this text to be a bit confusing to follow, did you? When reading the text, the thought that comes to mind is impossible. What do you say when you see the impossible? Peter saw the impossible. He saw it many times. He saw Jesus raise the dead, heal the blind and calm the seas. He stood witness as Jesus fed 5000 people with only a few loaves of bread and fish. Again, what do you say when you see the impossible? Hard to believe your eyes or hard to believe the stories...How do you believe what you hear or read, even if you think it is impossible?

Let us pray:

Dear God: Thank you for not giving up on us when we might now understand what you are trying to say. Please help us have faith in you even when we feel it is impossible. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S

The disciples have seen Jesus perform many miracles. One evening, some of the disciples were about to learn something even more amazing about Jesus. They were going to see what God thought of Jesus! Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to follow Him onto a mountain to pray. Even though the disciples were very sleepy they followed Him just as He asked. Suddenly, Jesus began to change right before their eyes! Everything became bright, Jesus' face began to shine brighter than any light! His clothes became lighter than any color. Two men appeared beside Jesus. One of the men was Moses and the other was Elijah. Peter, James, and John couldn't believe their eyes! Moses and Elijah had died long ago, and now they are standing and talking with Jesus. They were talking about how Jesus was going to die. Then a bright cloud came down and covered them all! Everyone heard a voice unlike any other they had ever heard. This was the voice of God saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" The disciples were so frightened upon hearing the voice of God that they fell on the ground, Jesus told them to get up and to not be afraid.

1. What do you think about Jesus' transfiguration?

Remember:

Transfiguration means "transformed". Jesus was transformed into a glorious image in which His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light!

Pray:

Thank you, Lord, for teaching us about You through the Bible. Amen.