

Sermon February 14 2021

Text: Mark 9:2-9

### The Transfiguration of Our Lord

I want to speak to you who are worshipping this week from home. Due to the Pandemic, many of us are making the wise decision to stay at home more and to protect ourselves in a variety of ways. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is striving to serve you and to support your worship lives. The Council, our Staff members, and I, all love you and pray for you. On this Sunday when we think of ways our Lord Jesus Christ poured out his life for us all, we want you at home to know how precious you are to us. **This week we do not have a video or audio recording of the worship service at Our Saviour's** but we do have this written Sermon. We will begin mailing and emailing videos and CD's or DVD's again by Monday February 22. Please tell us if you prefer to receive an email giving you the service, or if you prefer a CD or a DVD through the U.S. Mail. You can phone us at 237-9087 or email me at [pastor@oslwyo.org](mailto:pastor@oslwyo.org). Please communicate with us in this way because we want to support you in worship and in a life of love.

We joyfully share God's love all across our congregation, in homes and in the sanctuary. When Jesus was baptized, God said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased". When Jesus was on the mountain with some of His disciples, God spoke again, saying, "This My Son, the Beloved, listen to Him!" I hope to express to you who are reading this Sermon, the depth of God's love for you. This love comes forth from the relationship between God and the Beloved Son, and yet, sometimes we do not have an awareness of this immense love.

We are human. We depend upon God the Holy Spirit to inspire us with the gift of faith, the urge to pray and praise, along with the desire to serve in the name of Christ. One of the most powerful ways that God has revealed the identity of the Beloved Son is with the scripture we are studying today. In this Bible narrative, we get a glimpse of Jesus with Moses and Elijah on the Mountain, in conversation. We know this happened because there were witnesses to this amazing demonstration of the relationship between God and the Son and believers.

Peter and James and John have shared with the world, their memory of Jesus being transfigured. Suddenly, before their eyes, He turned radiant, shining, completely transformed in His appearance.

Peter seems confused at this point. Who wouldn't be confused by this glorious miracle? Peter seems to want to build a memorial. I don't blame Peter one bit! This was a confounding, utterly amazing experience for the disciples, and especially for Peter. Peter, after all is the one who often seemed to try to push Jesus into Peter's way of doing things. I'm sad to say, we are all like that.

Peter's idea of building three dwellings was his effort to hang on to the moment. He didn't want to lose what they had seen and felt and learned. Remember, Mark gives to us, today, some important details about their situation. Many suffering people had already been healed by Jesus. Thousands had already been fed and taught by Jesus. **Immediately prior to the Transfiguration, Jesus spoke of his soon suffering and death and of his coming Resurrection.** Peter had rejected Jesus' prediction: "God forbid".

We too want to reject the reality that God suffers with us. We do not want any of our loved ones to suffer or to die. Is resurrection real? Yes. Even more, we simply cannot believe, in our own human understanding, that God would allow the Christ to be killed. This is the great scandal of the Cross, the great scandal of Christianity.

Let us cling to Jesus' words, "The Kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe the good news." God is with you. God is with you in your joys and your sorrows. This Life is here for you now. Amen (Sing #531 the Trumpets Sound)

**We will begin the season of Lent February 17 with worship at the church. If you cannot come to the sanctuary, call and request Lenten devotional materials and worship recordings or live-streams of the Sunday worship services.**

**With the encouragement of several Council Members and a number of our lay people at Our Savior's, I urge you to wear a mask during worship services at the church, for the love of God and neighbor, for the love of Christ.**

Gratefully, Pastor Jo Ann Neal