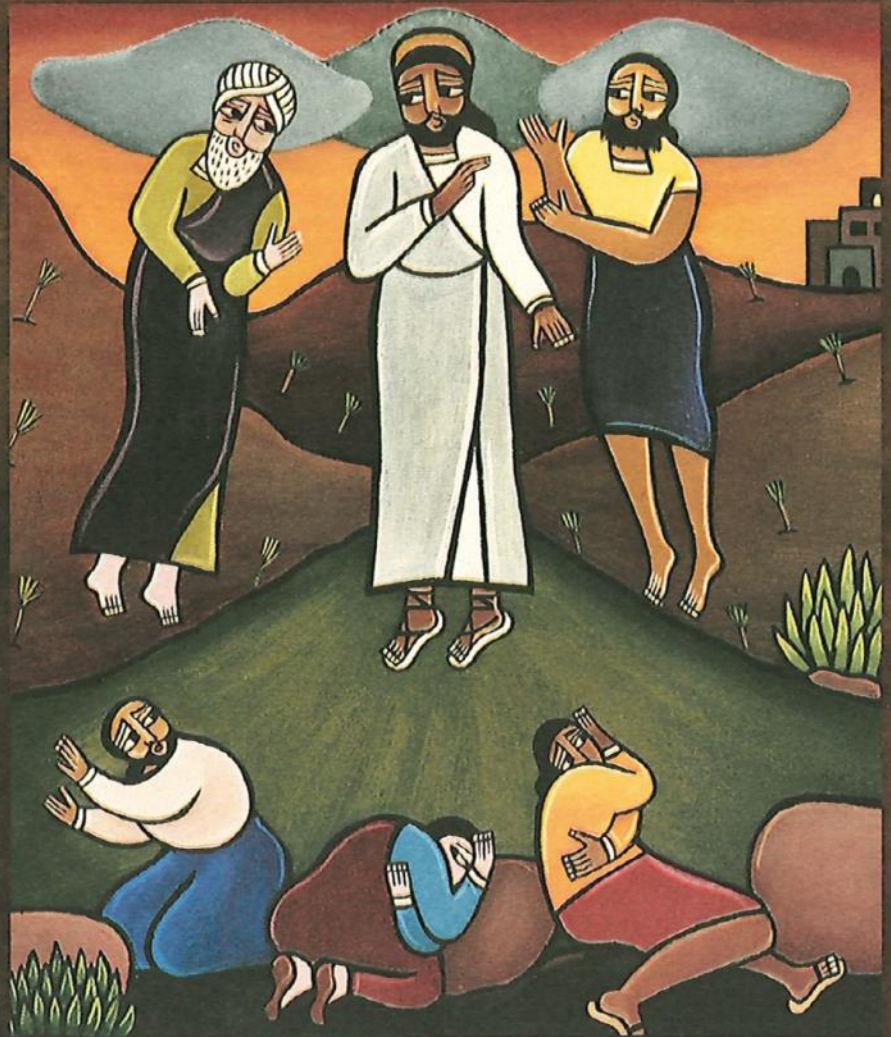


# Jesus was transfigured before them

MARK 9:2



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in sending your offering through the mail, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required inside,*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at*

*[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave:

*Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Norma Shue, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

**Sunday, February 14, 2021**  
**Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM**

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude in E Minor*

Mark Fax

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, on the mountain you showed your glory in the transfiguration of your Son. Give us the vision to see beyond the turmoil of our world and to behold the king in all his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

### FIRST READING

**2 Kings 2:1-12 (back page)**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

**Psalm 50:1-6** Congregation sings refrain where noted.

Irish melody  
Arr. Hal H. Hopson

Still be my vi - sion, O - Rul - er of all.

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- <sup>1</sup> The LORD, the God of | gods, has spoken;\*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.
- <sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,\*  
God reveals him- | self in glory.
- <sup>3</sup> Our God will come and will | not keep silence;\*  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a | raging storm. **REFRAIN**
- <sup>4</sup> He calls the heavens and the earth | from above\*  
to witness the judgment | of his people.
- <sup>5</sup> "Gather before me my | loyal followers,\*  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed | it with sacrifice."
- <sup>6</sup> Let the heavens declare the rightness | of his cause;\*  
for God him- | self is judge. **REFRAIN**

### SECOND READING

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (back page)**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**



## HOLY GOSPEL

**St. Mark 9:2-9 (back page)**

The Holy Gospel according to .... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

*Stand*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer this day (*especially*), that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Continued on next page...*

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage (*especially missionaries Cyril and Methodius*), that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Blessed are you,**

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **SANCTUS**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**FRACTION RITE** *A brief silence is kept.*

**AGNUS DEI** *Sung by Cantor*

**Sit** *The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

*Stand*

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you revealed the true radiance of your Son in the glory of his Transfiguration. Give us the grace and vision to behold our Lord in the food we receive from heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### BURIAL OF THE ALLELUIA

I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; yea, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors.” So says the Church today of her Alleluia. Today it dies, until it rises with Christ at his glorious resurrection.

**There is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to be born and a time to die; a time to laugh and a time to weep; a time to mourn and a time to dance.**

I heard a voice of a great multitude in heaven crying: “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. Alleluia! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.”  
**Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia!**

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

**HYMN**      *Beautiful Savior (LBW 518) stanzas 1 & 4 (next page)*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Jesu Dulcis Memoria*

Richard Webster

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*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.  
Feel free to gather outside for conversation.  
Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*



# Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

*In our prayers we remember...*

*Earline Jones, Wayne Wagner, Sandy Dickensheets, Sue Kopp, Jannette Guetersloh, Oonagh Newman, Jenny Zimmerman, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey, family and loved ones of Judy Himmelwright.*

**Food Pantry—February**

**Items needed:** Jelly, peanut butter, mashed potato mix, stuffing mix, canned beans. Paper bags with handles are now needed. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

**2021 Offering booklets** are available in the lobby on Springettsbury Ave. Please deliver booklets to those who are staying at home or who do not have transportation. Thank you.

The 2021 January, February, March Devotional Booklet, “Christ in Our Home” Copies are available in the Narthex and the Good Shephard Room.

**2021 Flower Chart**—The 2021 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is \$30 per vase. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers. This is a great way to honor someone, celebrate a milestone in life, or remember a loved one. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the 10:30 AM liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut it, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide us with all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. In advance, thank you.



***Today's altar flowers:***

*Are dedicated in loving memory of Cathy Whitsel  
by Linda Glassmyer.*

**STAFF**

Pastor  
Youth Director  
Organist, Choir Director  
Bookkeeper  
Secretary  
Sexton  
Preschool Director

Reverend Stanley Reep [prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
Kelly Moore-Spencer [kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
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Deb Becker [director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com](mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

## Ash Wednesday Schedule , Wednesday, February 17

8:00 AM Spoken Holy Communion  
Noon Spoken Holy Communion  
7:00 PM Holy Communion with Cantor and limited singing

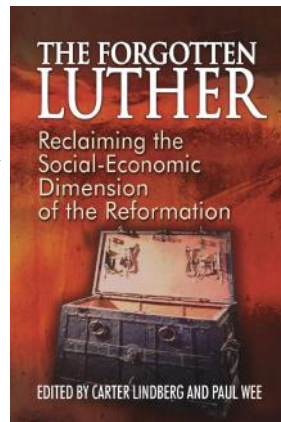
**Next Sunday, Confirmation Students** will begin their next unit, *The Ten Commandments*, on Sunday, February 21st at 5:00 PM. Packets of material are available from Pastor Reep this morning or they may be picked up during the week from the church office.

**New Members Class** will be held on Sundays during the month of March at 9:15 AM in Christ Hall. If you or someone you know is interested in uniting with our faith community please notify the church office. Masks and physical distancing will be practiced during the four sessions.

**Bible Study In-person** will begin on Wednesday, February 17 at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall. Please look at the Epistle reading from 1 Peter 3:18-22. We will spend most of our time during the Lenten Season on the epistle reading for the up-coming Sunday.

### Lenten Wednesday Evenings led by Pastor William Snyder The Forgotten Luther, edited by Carter Lindberg and Paul Wee March 3, 10, 17, 24 7:00-8:00 PM

We often forget how frequently Luther called for reform in the social and economic dimensions of life, which he saw as a natural outgrowth of theology and love of neighbor. The book, *The Forgotten Luther*, will be the jumping off point for our discussion. Reading the book is optional. We will consider such topics as: the common chest; the danger of greed; subversion when called forth; creating new vision in the world. We will take the opportunity to examine together many social issues that challenge us in these times. Contact Patty Snyder 717-578-2253 to register and receive the Zoom link.



## CREATE

CREATE will be held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. Ages 2 through grade 1 will be held 6:00pm till 6:30pm. Grades 2 through Grade 6 will be 6:45pm through 7:15pm. Each participant will receive a group of packets, each containing all the supplies that are needed for the designated weekly lesson. The Zoom sessions will include Bible Stories, Church Seasons, Holidays, Crafts and Art Projects.



You can also do these sessions on your own with your children. . Please let me know if you are interested in being part of CREATE Zoom. Miss Kelly

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord B, 2021**  
**2 Kings 2:1-122 Corinthians 4:3-6 St. Mark 9:2-9**

In the early centuries of the church's life, if you showed an interest in Christianity, then you underwent a kind of preliminary examination, called a scrutiny. The test consisted of just one question: **Are you willing to help out those who are in need?** If you were, then you went through a time in preparation for baptism. Depending on the geographic location, the time of preparation could last up to a couple of years.

During that time your daily task was to work on caring for your neighbors – not just the people around you whom you liked, but the people that you might not know, might not like, people different from yourself; orphans, widows, imprisoned, strangers from foreign lands. Mostly your work was centering on people who were neglected or otherwise overlooked or forgotten by society. Christians in those days were known for their generosity, known for their willingness to share; food from their cupboard and clothing from their closet. Christians were known as ones showing kindness to those on the periphery of the community.

After some time, when you made progress on the journey to care for others, the candidate would be brought before the assembly, before the congregation. The equivalent of a sponsor would testify on your behalf telling the entire faith community of the progress you had made on helping those in need. "I have been keeping an eye on you, and I have noticed how you spend time caring for those in need, the weekly distribution of food, assisting people to get to worship, working collaboratively on mission projects, sending cards of encouragement to those who are struggling. I see signs of maturity and growth in your life." A sort of report card like school districts use: working toward proficiency, proficient, mastery.

Once you made it that far then you would be whisked off on your Lenten journey to prepare for Baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter. In that liturgy you would hear of God's desire to save and rescue humanity from sin and death. This was accomplished for us through Christ Jesus; his suffering and death and resurrection. You would be washed in the baptismal water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and be wrapped in new white clothes, a baptismal gown. Then you would share in the Holiest of meals; Holy Communion. The bread of which we partake today was shared then, in those early days in the life of the church's existence it was shared to renew baptismal vows, to encourage one another to continue the work that was begun when the initial question was asked; **Are you willing to help out those who are in need?**

At the monastery, Mount Saviour, in Pine City New York, a little village just outside of Elmira, I used to take retreats. I visited the Benedictine brothers regularly spring and fall. It was in the days before Marriage, and the gift of children. The monastery perched high upon a hill. I once romanticized about scheduling a winter retreat. The snow, wind, ice, and bitter temperatures served as a reminder that spring and fall really are the ideal times to be in Elmira New York.

Along with the brothers there were always two or three novices. These were men who were contemplating the brotherhood as a life's calling. Mount Saviour was a working sheep farm. So in addition to praying the hours, literally every three hours stopping work or sleep or chores to go to the chapel and pray, the brothers tended sheep. They birthed the yews in the spring and sheered them in the summer. You could purchase woolen mittens made from the

local yarn in the bookstore. Mittens that looked a lot like the ones Senator Bernie Sanders wore on inauguration day. Silence was the rule. So you never had much of a chance to ask the novices what made them think, contemplate, life in the monastery. The only time to talk was if help was needed during the afternoon. Following lunch the Abbot would ask the brothers if they needed help with any chores. The brothers would simply tell of the task needing attention and where to meet up in order to provide assistance.

On one occasion I ventured out into the fields to help mend a fence. This was a great experience; out on a hill, fabulous vista, fresh air, and the gentle sounds of the sheep off in a distant pasture grazing. Add to it the ability to talk and ask questions. One novice had been at the monastery from my very first visit. Now more than three years had elapsed and he was still considering the question of formal entry into the community. He still wasn't sure that this was the life for him. He prayed the hours, completed chores, tended sheep, and pondered what God was calling him to do, calling him to be, calling him to serve.

Clouds often overshadow us. The voice of God isn't always clearly heard. Helping others sometimes seems like an inconvenience or just too much work. Being away on a mountain top outdoes the ordinariness of daily life. Peter, James and John didn't get to ask questions. Peter blurted out about pitching tents, building booths, as a way to stay in the presence of Jesus, Moses and Elijah. James and John were either blinded by the dazzling light or dumbfounded by what they were witnessing. Whatever was revealed was enough to get them back down the mountain to the ordinarily daily existence where widows and orphans needed care, sick people healing, and food provided for folks who were hungry. Jesus didn't ask them if they were willing to help people. He just went right ahead and showed them what life could be like. He was caring for neighbors – not just the people around whom they knew and liked, but the people that they didn't know, maybe even didn't like, people who were different; orphans, widows, imprisoned, strangers from foreign lands. Mostly Jesus' work centered on people who were neglected or otherwise overlooked or forgotten by society. Jesus in those days was known for his generosity, willingness to share, show kindness to those on the periphery of the community. Jesus being transfigured before Peter, James and John must have freaked them out. Add to that bright cloud and dazzling appearance the voice of God announcing his beloved Son, and the importance of what he says would either make you turn and run, or stay and follow.

Now, centuries later, I'm not so certain if Christians are known for showing kindness to those on the periphery of society. I'm not certain if people are even asked to show an interest in Christianity or in extending God's loving embrace to others. You probably haven't undergone any kind of scrutiny, any kind of examination recently as it relates to faith and life. The test if you are so inclined to take it hasn't changed much through the centuries: **Are you willing to help out those who are in need?** Lent begins on Wednesday. Prayer, fasting, giving alms and acts of kindness saturate the season. Jesus and his disciples don't stay on the mountain. They chuck down the mountain and head for Jerusalem. On the way to the cross, Jesus helps those who are in need. He doesn't count the cost or ponder whether or not it is an inconvenience. Jesus willingly helps those who are in need. That's why he is with us now, pointing us in the way of the cross and showing love for you and your neighbor. Amen.



**FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12**

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept

watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**Psalm 50:1-6****SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

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