



DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EPIPHANY - TRANSFIGURATION —YEAR B

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 148

**A: Forever let us sing
the goodness of the Lord.**

L: Praise the LORD from the heavens,

G: praise him in the heights above.

L: Praise him, all his angels,

G: praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

L: Praise him, sun and moon,

G: praise him, all you shining stars.

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,

**G: lightning and hail, stormy winds that do
his bidding,**

L: you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all
cedars,

**G: wild animals and all cattle, small creatures
and flying birds,**

L: kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,

**G: young men and maidens, old men and
children.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

**G: for his splendor is above the earth and the
heavens.**

**A: Forever let us sing
the goodness of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: 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.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

**A: A voice came from the cloud: "This is my
Son, whom I love. Listen to him."
(Mark 9:7b)**

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

Last Sunday after the Epiphany—The Transfiguration of Our Lord: The season of showing his glory to those he has called is coming to a close. We stand at the threshold of the season of his ultimate humiliation. But before we go down to the valley of the shadow of death, he gives us a glimpse of the glory which he hid so carefully even while he was revealing it. Lent is coming; hang on to the glory that soon will be covered in shame and washed with blood!

As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: MARK 9:2-9

Life is filled with high points and low. They mirror and remind us of our spiritual life, which likewise has its high points and its low ones. For the heathen the highs and lows of life are random. For the Christian each is a preparation and an announcement of the other—Transfiguration for Lent, Lent for Easter. The Transfiguration, like all of Jesus' demonstrations of his glory, was primarily for the benefit of those he called. It is to prepare them for the descent into the suffering of the Savior and their own suffering as well. If they can just remember! If they can just hang on to what they saw and especially to what they heard on the mountain top! Then they will not despair in Holy Week. Beyond that, there are so many other possible points of emphasis in the Transfiguration. Notice how glory that is only seen and not explained creates terror; looking up and seeing Jesus only, then hearing his voice brings peace. Notice, too, the mutually exclusive propositions: they were terrified, but wanted to stay! Moses and Elijah have come to speak with Christ of his coming Passion and no doubt of his resurrection as well—they talk of suffering and death from the unique vantage point of the eternal life they already enjoy. But it all comes together and makes sense when we see Jesus only and listen to him; that was the message in Epiphany. In very

different circumstances it will be the message in Lent. That is likewise the message in your good days and days of affliction, in life and in death. You can preach on this text every year on this Sunday for the rest of your life, and you still will not be finished with it!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: 2 KINGS 2:1-12A

Elijah was one of those who came down from heaven to speak with Jesus for the encouragement of Peter, James and John. It may be difficult to preach on the ascension of Elijah on Transfiguration Sunday. The chief reason for putting this lesson on this Sunday might be to instruct us about who it is that Jesus spoke with on the holy mountain. Elijah is the greatest preacher of repentance and Moses the greatest teacher of the Law; Jesus is the one who comes to win forgiveness for the penitent who have transgressed the law and are therefore sinners.

My takeaways:

**SECOND LESSON:
2 CORINTHIANS 3:12—4:2**

In Christ's Transfiguration we see the difference between the law and the gospel, between Moses and Jesus neatly summarized. The law apart from Christ is never clear and never reaches its goal. Those looking only on the law cannot pierce the veil which hides God's primary (though not his only) intention with the law, namely to kill us, to drive us to despair, to bring us to a desperate cry for mercy. Instead those looking only at the law and not piercing its veil vainly imagine that they can keep it. Ah, but Christ comes and removes the veil; the law in his hands does indeed kill and drive to despair. But most importantly the veil is torn away from the heart of God himself in the person of Christ. On the Mountain of Transfiguration he is not veiled like Moses. In the perfect union of his divine and human natures the glorified Christ comes in lowliness to touch the disciples and take them down the mountain to the valley of his Passion. There they will see the unveiled glory of the gospel on the cross! And from the cross they will be liberated from the shackles of sin and death and hell; they will even come to share in the glory of the Savior who by his Passion takes away the slavery of sin and the ugliness of death. We will not be ashamed to preach this unveiled Christ whose lowly Word still unveils the heart of God and frees us, transforming us from sinners to saints!

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6**

In the preaching of the gospel the real glory of God becomes manifest. The brilliant light of his glorious face has to pierce through the veil that blinds us all by nature. The light has to penetrate the thick darkness of the god of pleasure opposed to any and all suffering. It has to work its way through the darkness of reason so blind that it judges everything according to personal advantage. It must rip away the veil that guards the heart against any intrusion of feelings that might compete with self-love. The veil hides the ugliness of sin and conceals the essential misery of our existence apart from Christ. It makes it impossible to see that all truth, all joy, all life is to be found in Christ and in Christ alone. But so glorious is the face of Christ the Redeemer that it pierces through the veil and rips it away! Light shines from the darkness of his coming suffering *for us*. Light radiates from the cross even more brightly than it did from the manger or even from the Mount of Transfiguration. The light is Christ himself, a light that conquers sin and gloom and death and carries us from his cross to his empty tomb, from our cross to the day when faith will be transformed to sight. Oh, to see Jesus, to see Jesus only!

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?