

Transfiguration 3/2/14
Matthew 17:1-9 A

AND HE WAS TRANSFIGURED BEFORE THEM, AND HIS FACE SHONE LIKE THE SUN, AND HIS CLOTHES BECAME WHITE AS LIGHT.

So, where do butterflies come from? Metamorphosis, right? A caterpillar eats a whole bunch, finds somewhere safe, where it can be totally still. Then, it grows new skin and turns into a butterfly. The entire process is called -- metamorphosis. No, this is not a biology lesson, it's a sermon, a sermon on the Transfiguration of our Lord. So, why do I bring up metamorphosis? Because it help us understand the transfiguration. We read in our lesson, "And He was metamorphosized before them." Yes I know, in English it reads "transfigured," but in Greek, the word is "metamorphosis." "Metamorphosis" is a Greek word with means "change form," like the caterpillar into a butterfly. And, like Jesus on the mount of transfiguration.

What Peter, James, and John were privileged to see was not a reflection, but from within. Jesus, being in His nature very God of very God, shone the eternal glory of God through His human bone and flesh.

It was not like when Moses went up the mountain. A 2nd time – he had to go again because he broke the tablets the first time God gave him the Commandments, so he had to go back a 2nd time. He was with God for 40 days and 40 nights on that mountain. When he came down, "[he] did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God." Moses was simply reflecting the glory of God – think of a stained glass window reflecting the sunlight. Jesus is different. He was not merely reflecting the glory of God. His glory was from within. His appearance

changed so much that Matthew calls it a metamorphosis; He literally changed His form.

What is Peter's reaction to this metamorphosis? "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You wish, I will make three tents here, one for You and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter, with James and John, saw that metamorphosis and wanted to do something about it. He wanted capture that moment and live in the glory of Jesus forever and ever, without end.

Why wouldn't you want to capture that moment and live in the glory of Jesus? Think about it -- in and of yourself, you are not all that glorious. You are born sinful and unclean. Inside you is death and you show it -- aches and pains fill your bones; doubts and fears fill your souls.

But, that doesn't stop you from seeking glory. Ever since the devil whispered to our first parents, "Did God really say," we have convinced ourselves that we can have glory here and now and we can have our way. We go after it in man-made ways. No one want to be 2nd fiddle, sit on the bench, last in the class. We want, we are programmed, to be 1st chair; not just start on the team, but be captain of the team; graduate # 1; get that promotion at work. We want glory and we do what it takes to get it: we work hard, we dedicate ourselves. And when that is not enough, we lie, we cheat, we steal, we scheme, we back bite and back stab; we do whatever it takes to get ahead, including coveting and all manner of sins. And if someone gets hurt in the process, what is that to you? You were only looking out for # 1, right?

That is the earthly way of getting glory. But, its not God's way. Just because you today seek man-made glory does not mean that you will not bask in the glory of God for eternity.

That's what the Transfiguration – the metamorphosis of Jesus – is all about. When Jesus undergoes the metamorphosis on the mount, what He is doing is giving you a foretaste of what He wants to do with you. What He wants to do with you is a metamorphosis. But for that to happen, Jesus has to undergo another metamorphosis.

It worked like this: Jesus comes down from the mount to go to the cross. He goes the downward way of glory to sin-bearing and suffering for you.

God lays on His only-begotten Son all the lying, all the cheating, all the stealing, all the scheming, all the back biting and back stabbing; all your vain attempts to gain glory for yourself. God takes all your sin and lays it all upon Jesus. For that sin, Jesus went up another mountain, carrying the cross of death. Upon Mount Golgotha, Jesus died for your sin, my sin, and the sin of every sinner.

There was no voice proclaiming, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," only voices crying out, "Crucify Him," "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God (Matt 27:40)." Then, there was only darkness and silence. Jesus was crucified and died for you, so that you would become the righteousness of God.

But the third day, He did raise that temple, He raised the temple of His body, bringing life and immortality to light.

That was the metamorphosis Jesus did for you. He did it so that you would be changed. It happens in your Baptism. God joins you to Christ and all He has done for you. You are a child stained by sin, but in the new birth of baptism, your sins are washed away. You go from being a child of

the devil, to being a child of God; someone dead in sin to being alive in Christ Jesus; from being an heir of hell to an heir of heaven.

In your baptism, God began His good work in you. And through His Word and Sacrament of the Altar, He continues renewing you in Christ, so that He can do His work through you. That is why you pay your taxes on time; you seek to be forgiven and be reconciled with your neighbor; you love and cherish your spouse; you say nice things to your neighbor and about your neighbor; you rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. You are a reflection of Jesus to your neighbor.

And there's one more metamorphosis that you will undergo. In the 5th chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul talks about life in our earthly bodies, and he does it by comparing our earthly bodies to a tent. To understand Paul's words, all I have to do is ask you: who of you would like to be living in a tent this past week? Anybody? "We know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent {the tent of the body}, we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling ... For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened," Paul says.

The day is coming when the tent of your body will be destroyed. You will die. On the day you die in Christ, your soul will be with Jesus forever and your body will return to the ground from which you came, for dust you are and to the dust you shall return. When Jesus comes again in all the glory that Peter, James, and John saw on the Transfiguration Mount, all who are in the grave will hear His voice and come forth, alive, body and soul together. And, He will transform your lowly body so that it will be like His glorious body. Paul tells us how He's going to do it: What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. "It is sown in dishonor; it is

raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power;” raised from the grave, we will have a marvelous, glorious body that does not decay, wear out, die; a body not affected by disease or sin or anything. And that body will bask in the glory of God forever and ever. That’s what’s going to happen to you. That’s the metamorphosis that awaits you.

In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

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Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

March 2, 2014



*You are the most handsome of the sons of men;
grace is poured upon your lips.*

Psalms 45:2a

Divine Service

Setting One

Hymn of Invocation

821 (st. 1-4)

Confession & Absolution

p. 151

Introit

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

for the Lord our God is holy!

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Holy is he!

The King in his might loves justice.

You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool!

Holy is he!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy

Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

for the Lord our God is holy!

Kyrie

p. 152

Glory to God

p. 154

Salutation & Collect

p. 156

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 24:8-18 (ESV)

And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21 (ESV)

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia"

p. 156

Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 17:1-9 (ESV)

And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You wish, I will make three tents here, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "*This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.*" When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "*Rise, and have no fear.*" And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "*Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.*"

Nicene Creed p. 158

Hymn of the Day # 414

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Lord, whose only-begotten Son was transfigured on the mountaintop,
hear us, we pray!

Offering

The Handbells will be playing “Holy Ground” during the gathering of our morning offerings.

“What Shall I Render” p. 159

Service of the Sacrament p. 160

Distribution Hymns # 680, 631

“Thank the Lord” p. 164

Post-Communion Collect p. 166

Benediction p. 166

Closing Hymn # 537

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ’s Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination’s doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

In our thoughts and prayers,

† Kyle Miller (Nona Blaisdell’s brother);

† Bennie Dschaak & Family, as they mourn Carmen’s death.

Welcome to worship on the Transfiguration of our Lord. In our Lord's transfiguration, we see the divine glory of the Lord Jesus Christ shine through His human body. The Transfiguration teaches us the certainty of eternal life for all believers in heaven. As Moses and Elijah beheld the Lord in all His glory, so we too will live in the presence of His glory forever. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon.

1 Peter: Please join us for Bible class this morning as we continue our study of 1 Peter.

Bible Class on Tuesday, March 4th, will meet at Schoolhouse Apartments.

Ash Wednesday, March 5th, marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Our midweek services during the season of Lent will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. The LWML will serve soup and sandwiches at 5:30 p.m. Chime practice will be at 7:15 p.m. and Handbell Choir will be at 7:45 p.m. Please see the insert in the bulletin for more information on our Lenten worship.



Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 9th. Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour.

“Thank You” to Bernice Herrmann, Clare Renner and Norma Sailer for providing bars for Mission Update Sunday.

Elsie Buchmann would like to say “Thank You” for all the beautiful cards and gifts and all those who attended her 90th birthday celebration last Sunday.

Tracy Backus and Lacy Korbyn would like to thank the LWML ladies for putting together such a nice baby shower and also thanks to all of you who attended. We are so blessed to be a part of such a great congregation.

The March calendar, Pray for Us calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet, January council minutes and “My Devotions” for the children are in the black stacking trays in the social hall.



Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance
Attendance: 136 Offerings: \$3,169.00

“And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.” Jesus is enough. Moses and Elijah point to Jesus and are happy to fade into the background. With our eyes focused on Him and Him alone the rest of our lives come into focus. He is primary, all else secondary. When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place.

We are the North Dakota District...

This week is Ash Wednesday. For centuries, Lutherans practiced the “imposition of ashes.” While this is a free practice, it does remind us that “we are dust and to dust we shall return.” King David put on sackcloth and rolled in ashes when we repented of his sin surrounding Bathsheba. The ashes remind us of our sin that kills us, but as they are placed on us in the shape of a cross, they also point us to our Savior Jesus who took our death and gave us new eternal life.

President Baneck

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Monday	10:00 am	Circuit Pastors @ Bismarck
Tuesday	2:00 pm	Bible Class @ Schoolhouse Apartments
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	
	3:30 pm	1 st -year Catechism
	4:30 pm	2 nd -year Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup/Sandwiches—LWML
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:15 pm	Chime Practice
	7:45 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	1:30 pm	Vesper Guild
	2:00 pm	<i>Pastor @ Marian Manor (Glen Ullin)</i>
	7:00 pm	<i>Lenten Service @ Glen Ullin</i>
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223
revheller@westriv.com
concordiasecretary@westriv.com
Website: www.concordiabeulah.org

*Please use a pew card to record your worship and/or
Communion attendance this morning*