

MEDITATION



Josh Tucker
Pastor
St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

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, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 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." He did not know what to

say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Mark 9:2-8

Grace to you and peace in the name of the one who is revealed as the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There are times in life when you might have a special experience of God; an experience when you feel as close to God's presence as humanly possible. These experiences are sometimes referred to as mountaintop experiences with God. Like the imagery suggests, in a mountaintop

experience, one feels as if they have reached a peak in their faith life; a point when they have experienced the closeness of God in a unique way that has helped them grow in their faith and in their relationship with Jesus. The whole mountaintop experience might strengthen your faith and convict you in such a way to help others grow in their faith, too.

We read in Mark's gospel an account of a mountaintop experience known as the transfiguration of our Lord. In fact, Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday in the liturgical church. This is a festival Sunday when we recognize and celebrate this story as a time when Jesus took a few of his followers up the mountain for a literal mountaintop experience. As the four of them reached the

top of the mountain, suddenly Jesus is transfigured, or transformed right in front of their very eyes. As the disciples see the transformation that is taking place in Jesus they also notice Elijah and Moses standing with him talking to him. This action of transformation, this mountaintop experience for the disciples places Jesus alongside the prophets and the fathers of the faith. Then Jesus is identified by God as the Son of Man, the Beloved, and one whom the disciples should listen to and follow. The disciples are in the midst of a mountaintop experience when they grow closer in relationship with the Lord.

Perhaps you've had a mountaintop experience similar to this account or simply an experience

that has helped you grow in your faith and in your relationship with God. These are important experiences. And, it is important to remember that in these experiences we ourselves are transformed as well. That is, just as Jesus was transformed in this account of the transfiguration before his disciples, the mountaintop experience also transformed their hearts and minds as they had grown in their relationship with Jesus. And, just as God is revealed to us in new and exciting ways in those mountaintop experiences, we too are transformed by the experience. May we see God revealed to us each and every day and may the revelation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be so transformative for us that it builds concretely upon our faith. Amen.

Fellowship & Faith

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