

Transfiguration.2026

The Transfiguration of our Lord. Most Christians don't seem to care or what does it really matter in my day. The world doesn't know or care. Does the transfiguration matter? More so than all the stuff that fill our lives; ultimately, while stuff may seem important, really doesn't matter. This day, eternally matters to His Church, to you.

Behold a reason to rejoice, for look who stands with Christ on the mount: Moses, Elijah, Peter, James and John. If they may stand with Christ in His glory, then there is hope for you as well.

Or do you not recall Moses once murdered? And thought he knew better ways for God, he failed to circumcise his son, doubted God, trusted his own ability as he struck the rock for water.

And Elijah? He also ran, hid like Moses. He called fire down from heaven, defeated 400 false prophets of Baal, but then untrusting, afraid, ran from little Jezebel and wicked Ahaz lest what they would do to him. Full of self-pity, depression, wallowing in self-righteous arrogance, he was certain that he was the only one left.

And Peter, so short-sighted, thinks he has better plans for Jesus than the passion, known to rebuke Jesus, have doubts, draw sword in anger, deny the gospel to impose Jewish laws upon new believers, has trouble staying awake when Jesus calls, bold one moment and quick to deny Him.

James, John, fair no better than Peter, sleepy, fearful when our Lord looks to them, go into hiding, scared as well, even sent Mommy to Jesus to ask for a place of self-serving honor.

Moses, Elijah, Peter, James, John -sinners all, so many failures. See in them your own sins: anger you've used against your spouse, how you murder others with unkind thoughts and words, how you think you always know what's best and right; for your doubts toward God working in your life, for your self-pity, for depressing thoughts you are alone or God doesn't care enough; for arrogance; thinking you have a better plan for God, how your words and actions are so quick to deny you know Jesus, for the jealousy you store up against others, for your fears, for seeking your own praise. Yes, look at these weak sinners, see yourself. Like them, you see only a fraction of your failures -repent then rejoice.

For look, our Lord is pleased to have these sinners with Him. Look and rejoice! It matters they stand with Him by grace. They don't stand there because Jesus ignores their sin. God isn't some indulgent grandpa in the sky who winks at his children with a sly grin when they do wrong. God is not like us. He abhors sin, cannot stand its presence. He will not tolerate its evil stench; Sin is punished with hell. But still these sinners stand with Jesus. Yes, these sinners learned their lesson well; learned to turn away from any hope in themselves and turn toward this Jesus—the one who came to lay down his life for them.

It matters. Moses, Elijah spoke to Jesus about the most important thing ever in all the world. What did Peter, James, John overhear them discuss? Talking about the only thing that truly matters. Luke tells us, **They were talking with Jesus about**

Jesus exodus, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem. Exodus –what a loaded word.

Moses led Israel's exodus from slavery to freedom, the fulfilling God's promise to their homeland. The first exodus with slaughtered lambs. Bloody doorposts. A holy meal. Death passed over. God's people delivered through water.

It's no coincidence the Lord's great saving act event of the OT is at the center of this mount -this new exodus is enfolding. The fulfillment of the Old. Our Lord's passion set to begin, His exodus from this world.

Now, they're talking greater exodus, your exodus, rescued from slavery of sin, death; the fulfilling of God's promise to bring you to your true, promised home. For the slaughtered Lamb slain, lives, whose blood marks the doorpost of your soul. Death passes over, cannot touch you. We too delivered through greater waters. We too eat a greater holy meal.

It matters. From this point forward in Jesus ministry, He turns to Jerusalem. And nothing is more holy, nothing more essential to who God is, than God in the Flesh lifted up from the earth on cross in order to draw all people unto Himself. What all creation, waited. Moses, Elijah preached the Christ; every page of the OT about Christ. What makes possible for these sinners -for you! to stand in the glory of Christ.

What truly matters. Perfect love to that horrendous death, with nothing more than the desire to make you His. He knows what He will soon endure. This is why He came. It is worth it to Him. Because you are worth it to Him.

It matters. God strengthened the disciples for the journey ahead, giving them a glimpse of His glory; to remember in their struggles and that you too would know. Didn't keep them from stumbling. Nor did it take away their troubles. But neither did their stumbling keep God from loving and forgiving. Again and again, God intervened, welcomed him back; so also you. **Listen to Him! Rise, have no fear, see only Jesus.** Behold the glory of His Word, His sacraments. He welcomes, absolves, He loves. Behold, His mercy.

Bask in His forgiveness and gifts. Rejoice in the company of Moses, Elijah, Peter and the whole cloud of witnesses already at rest. Soon, you shall stand with them. Your body transfigured, recognizing -like the disciples know Moses and Elijah, you recognize the saints that went before you, generations, grandparents you never met here or great grandchild not yet born you don't live to see here, knowing them with our Lord in eternal bliss. Eternity with your Lord and family, what truly matters.

Whether worn down or dark days, Peter writes, remember the transfiguration, you have something even greater you can't fathom, this Word, brings you Christ Himself, veiled glory, His precious promises to you in the Sacraments to sustain you. His eternal works daily in your life, strengthens you. Remember this is your God in the flesh for you, with you.

The Transfiguration, not for Jesus, not just for Peter, James, John; it's for you, this vision bring to mind for you through the darkness of our world into the light of the world to come. **Listen to Him. Rise, have no fear, see only Jesus.** This is how you live. What truly matters.