

## February 15 - The Transfiguration of Our Lord

### Learning to Trust the Mountain and the Light Beside the Horse

#### Word of God

##### **Exodus 24:8-18**

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.

## **Psalm 2:6-12**

“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

## **2 Peter 1:16-21**

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 the prophetic word more fully confirmed, 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.

### **Matthew 17:1-9**

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."

### **Reflections in the Field**

Horses understand elevation—both physical and emotional. When riding or leading on a hill, a horse adjusts her balance carefully, finding her footing with instinctive wisdom. She knows that being higher on the landscape changes perspective, wind, scent, light, and the feel of the world around her.

The Transfiguration is Christ leading His closest disciples up the mountain—not to escape the world, but to see Him clearly so they may return transformed. Horses teach us this same balance: how to ascend without fear, how to pause and observe, and how to carry what is revealed back into daily life.

In the field, the horse looks out over a ridge with calm attentiveness. In the same way, Christ invites us to lift our eyes, behold His glory, and then

follow Him back down into the valleys of our vocations, relationships, and callings.

### **Lutheran Reflection**

Luther emphasizes that Christ is revealed not through human effort but through God's action. In his commentary on the Transfiguration, he writes that the disciples were given a glimpse of Christ's true glory so they could endure the coming suffering of the cross.

The voice from the cloud—"Listen to Him"—directs the church to the Word, for Christ's glory is known through the Scriptures, not through speculative visions. The mountain moment reveals who Jesus is; the Word sustains us when the mountain is far behind us.

### **Reflection Prompts**

- When have you experienced a "mountaintop moment" that strengthened your faith?
  
- How does your horse respond to changes in elevation, perspective, or environment?
  
- What does it mean for you to "listen to Him" in this season of your life?
  
- How is Christ inviting you to carry His light back down into your daily responsibilities?

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, radiant Son of God, You reveal Your glory on the mountain so that we may trust You in the valleys. Teach me, through Your Word and through the steady wisdom of the horse, to walk in confidence, humility, and attentive listening. Let Your light guide my path, and let Your voice calm my fears. Amen.

*“The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;  
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”  
— Numbers 6:24–26*