



“After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.” (Mark 9:1-8 - NIV)

**Prayer:** Lord God, before the suffering and death of Your One and Only Son, You revealed His glory on the holy mountain. Grant me strength Lord, that I may in steadfast faith, bear His cross on earth as I look forward to experiencing the light of His heavenly glory as I too shall be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the trumpet’s last blast, through Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



### **Order of Worship – The Common Service With L.S. – pg. 15**

- Greeting by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 449** Sung by the Congregation

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

**First Lesson** – II Kings 2:1-12-Elijah Taken up to Heaven

**PSALM OF THE DAY** Psalm 148 (C.W. pg. 121 – Sung by Monica McInnis)

**Second Lesson** – II Corinthians 3:12-4:6-Moses is Veiled.

**Gospel Lesson** – Mark 9:2-10-Jesus Transfigured.

**Nicene Creed** by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 95** sung by the Congregation

**Sermon Text:** Mark 9:2-8

Sermon Theme: Heaven on Earth – Or Not.

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer

**Communion Liturgy** (Liturgy - pg. 21)

*Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

**Agnus Dei** (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ's Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 309** sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

*Nunc Dimittis* (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 360** sung by the Congregation.

SERMON TEXT: Mark 9:2- 8 [Also in Matthew 17:1-13; Luke 9:28-36]

Vs. 2 – After six days Jesus took **Peter, James and John** with Him and led them up a high mountain, where **they were all alone**. There He was transfigured **before them**.

Vs. 3 – His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

Vs. 4 – And **there appeared before them** Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Vs. 5 - **Peter said** to Jesus, Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.

Vs. 6 – (He did not know what to say, they were so afraid.)

Vs. 7 – Then a cloud appeared and **enveloped them** and a voice came from the cloud, 'This is My Son, Whom I love. Listen to Him!

Vs. 8 – Suddenly, when they looked around, **they no longer saw anyone with them** except Jesus.

GREETING: Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

According to a popular encyclopedia, there were electric cars in the late 1890's.

They were powered by a single 2-5 horsepower electric engine and could reach speeds of up to 20 miles per hour for a distance of 50 miles. (Electrobat car)

Then a *gas-electric* car was developed which had a small gasoline engine used to power a generator which charged the batteries so that the car could travel further than the 50 miles at one time.

Then of course the cars came along that were powered only by a gasoline engine, which allowed for an even greater distance at a higher rate of speed.

There was a continual progression to try to make the vehicle nicer, more convenient and more pleasing to those who owned and drove the car.

As human beings we try to make things nice / pleasant /convenient / pleasing.

The definition of nice / pleasant /convenient / pleasing can of course vary from person to person.

One person may be total satisfied just owning a car, while someone else may be continually upgrading.

If we could, we might want to make things in this world so nice that it is like *paradise* a type of *heaven on earth*. People take vacations to their favorite location. Whether it be to the north woods or the sunny south.

Someone who likes it warm might move to a warmer climate.  
Someone who likes it cold might move to a colder climate.

We can of course come up with a list of things that are constantly being improved, or that we might want to improve. Those items might include but not limited to – Telephone – Electronic devices – shoes – clothing – furnaces – air conditioning – the most up to date grill etc.

Today in this text, the Apostle Peter sees something spectacular that he likes and he wants to hold on to it.

Peter sees Jesus as He is changed / Transformed / Transfigured - μετεμορφωθη -  
(Metamorphosis = The change of an egg / embryo – to a Larva – to a Pupa / Cocoon - to a Butterfly)

And Peter wants to hang on to it and so:

**Vs. 5 - Peter said to Jesus, Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.**

Peter, James and John, as they are on the Mount of Transfiguration, and Scripture does not tell us exactly which Mountain it is, there is debate and some think it is Mt. Tabor, others think it was Mt. Hermon.

But the location is not the important point, the important point is why this even occurred.

In **Mark 8:31-32**, Jesus had just explained to His disciples that: **“He must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priest and teachers of the law and that He must be killed and after three days rise again.”**

Jesus knew that when His disciples would see what must happen, that it would cause them great emotional pain and stress and fear.

Thus, Jesus gave Peter James and John a glimpse of the heavenly glory that awaited them and all believers. Jesus gave Peter James and John a glimpse of Christ’s Glory.

It was on this mountain of transfiguration that:

**Vs. 2b - Jesus was transfigured before them.**

**Vs. 3 – His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.**

**Vs. 4 – And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.**

This is an amazing sight!

Peter James & John suddenly see this bright appearance of Jesus.

**Matthew 17:2** – tells us that Jesus face shone like the sun.

**Luke 9: 29** – tells us that Jesus clothes became as bright as a flash of lightening.

They then also see Moses and Elijah.

Moses who had died 1500 years earlier and Elijah who had been taken to heaven in a whirlwind some 850 years earlier, they were now both standing there with Jesus in glorious Splendor, talking with Jesus about His departure. (Luke 9:28-36)

In the same way, we can look forward to heaven with our bodies of glorious splendor.

It was this glorious sight that would give the disciples the encouragement and strength needed at the time of dire need as they saw their Lord Jesus crucified, and then after Jesus Ascended into heaven to give them courage throughout their life and ministry.

It is words such as these that give us strength and encouragement throughout our lives as we go through whatever fears and troubles, we may have.

Imagine if we were suddenly required to go back to the time before automobiles and the only way we could get around was on foot, or by horse or bicycle. It would not be as easy as what we have become accustomed to with our vehicles that can take us across the continent if we want.

Imagine not knowing about Jesus as True God and True Man Who conquered death and the devil and made full payment for sin on the cross of Calvary, and won heaven for us.

Imagine if we only had life on this earth to look forward to and after that we did not know where or what would happen to us?

The Apostle Peter also recorded this account of Christ's transfiguration when he wrote: **II Peter 1:16-18** – **“We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 – For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory saying, This is My Son, Whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.”**

Thank be to God that God has revealed to us our Salvation in Christ, and our certainty of heaven.

**Vs. 7** – **Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them and a voice came from the cloud, ‘This is My Son, Whom I love. Listen to Him!**

Keep on studying and keep on listening to the Word of God which He has graciously given us in the Holy Bible. AMEN

THEME: Heaven on Earth – or Not.