

# The Transfiguration of Our Lord

## February 27, 2022

We have reached the zenith of the Epiphany season. Christ stands upon the mountain peak and reveals His majesty as true God, giving His disciples a glimpse of His power and glory before He goes down the mountain to suffer and die for the sins of all mankind. We, too, will one day see our Savior with unveiled eyes when we enter heaven. Until that day we live on the plain, our hearts eager to see His awesome majesty. We remember His promise, "Lo, I am with you always."

**Alleluia! Let Praises Ring** Lutheran Service Book 822, Lutheran Worship 437, The Lutheran Hymnal 23



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! To God the Fa -  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Lamb  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Ho -  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to our tri -



ther let us bring Our songs of ad - o - ra - tion.  
of God we sing, In whom we are e - lect - ed.  
ly Ghost we sing For our re - gen - er - a - tion.  
une God we sing; Blest be His name for - ev - er!



To Him through ev - er - last - ing days Be wor - ship, hon -  
He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in  
The sav - ing faith in us He wrought And us un - to  
With an - gel hosts let us a - dore And sing His prais -



or, pow'r, and praise, Whose hand sus - tains cre - a - tion.  
that bless - ed flood, And as His bride se - lect - ed.  
the Bride-groom brought, Made us His cho - sen na - tion.  
es ev - er - more For all His grace and fa - vor!



Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;  
Ho - ly, ho - ly Is our u - nion And com - mu - nion.  
Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Joy e - ter - nal, Bliss su - per - nal;  
Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;



Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry.  
His be - friend - ing Gives us joy and peace un - end - ing.  
There is man - na And an end - less, glad ho - san - na.  
Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry!

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**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

**C** God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(*Luke 18:13*)

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Introit Psalm 84:1–2, 9, 11; antiphon Psalm 84:4

**L** Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!

**C** How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!

**L** My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**C** Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!

**L** For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

**C** 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.

- L** Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!

## Kyrie

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Christ, | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |

## Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
- C** Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- C** For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: 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.
- C** Amen.

## Deuteronomy 34:1–12

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup>all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, <sup>3</sup>the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” <sup>5</sup>So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, <sup>6</sup>and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. <sup>7</sup>Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. <sup>8</sup>And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

<sup>9</sup>And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>10</sup>And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, <sup>11</sup>none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, <sup>12</sup>and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- L** Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
- C** For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
- L** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
- C** bring an offering, and come into his courts!

## Psalm 99

- L** <sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- C** <sup>2</sup>The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
- L** <sup>3</sup>Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!
- C** <sup>4</sup>The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- L** <sup>5</sup>Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!
- C** <sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon his name. They called to the LORD, and he answered them.
- L** <sup>7</sup>In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them.
- C** <sup>8</sup>O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
- L** <sup>9</sup>Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

## Hebrews 3:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup>who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup>For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup>(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup>Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup>but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse of the Day: Psalm 45:2a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, You are the most handsome of the sons of men; Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia, Grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.

## Luke 9:28–36

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup>who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let

us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup>And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here** Lutheran Service Book 414, Lutheran Worship 89, The Lutheran Hymnal 135



1 'Tis	good,	Lord,	to	be	here!	Thy
2 'Tis	good,	Lord,	to	be	here,	Thy
3 Ful -	fill -	er	of	the	past	And
4 Be -	fore	we	taste	of	death,	We
5 'Tis	good,	Lord,	to	be	here!	Yet



glo - ry	fills	the	night;	Thy	face	and	gar - ments,
beau - ty	to	be -	hold	Where	Mo -	ses	and E -
hope	of	things	to be,	We	hail	Thy	bod - y
see Thy	king -	dom	come;	We	long	to	hold the
we may	not	re -	main;	But	since	Thou	bidst us



like	the	sun,	Shine	with	un -	bor -	rowed	light.
li -	jah	stand,	Thy	mes -	sen -	gers	of	old.
glo -	ri -	fied	And	our	re -	demp -	tion	see.
vi -	sion	bright	And	make	this	hill	our	home.
leave	the	mount,	Come	with	us	to	the	plain.

## Devotional Thoughts:

I watch Jeopardy most nights. The contestants display an astounding knowledge of diverse subjects. I'm particularly happy when I know the correct response and all three contestants are stumped! Recently, there were several individuals with incredibly long winning streaks. Day after day, I tuned in to see if their streak would continue. Eventually, they faltered and a new champion was crowned. Even "Know-it-alls" don't know it all!

I like science and technology. I was intrigued when I came across a video titled, "How we know that Einstein's General Relativity can't be quite right." In short, the video stated we already know that General Relativity cannot be quite right because it does not fit together with another well-confirmed theory that is quantum mechanics." Imagine that! Even Einstein didn't know it all!

All human wisdom and knowledge are limited. In times past, Christians were ridiculed for confessing in the Nicene Creed: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. Secularists scoffed at the idea that there were invisible things created by God!

Today, no one doubts the existence of invisible things. We know that diseases can be caused by invisible things known as viruses and bacteria. We have learned to have respect for the unseen dangers of atomic radiation. We all benefit from the wireless communication of cell phones and Wi-Fi internet.

When it comes to God, we must confess our lack of knowledge. There are people who have convinced themselves that their personal opinions about God are far superior to what God has revealed to us in Holy Scripture. Jesus' Transfiguration is a reminder that religious "Know-it-alls" don't know it all.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to the top of the Mount of Transfiguration. They were among the first disciples called. They had witnessed the raising of Jairus' daughter, the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and many other miracles. Peter confessed Jesus to be "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). But there was much more to Jesus than even they knew.

Luke tells us the appearance of Jesus' face was altered. Matthew recorded it this way, "He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun" (Matthew 17:2). Luke states that His clothing became dazzling white. I confess that I am partial to Mark's account in the King James Version which says, "His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them" (Mark 2:3). Peter, James, and John suddenly realized how limited their knowledge of Jesus was.

If this wasn't amazing enough, Moses and Elijah appeared talking with Jesus. The Law of Moses and the writings of the prophets had long foretold the events of Jesus' life that would lead to the salvation of sinners. Now as Jesus' mission to complete God's plan of salvation was coming to its culmination, Luke tells us that Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus about His journey to the cross in Jerusalem. There would be much more for Peter, James, and John to learn in the weeks ahead.

Small children sing, "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so!" We would do well to echo this excellent faith. On our own, we can know very little about God. By our natural knowledge of God, we know that He is powerful. Our conscience provides us with a rudimentary understanding of right and wrong. It is only through the Bible that we learn, "Jesus loves me!"

Throughout this Epiphany season, we have reviewed the amazing truth that Jesus of Nazareth is the very Son of God who came into the world to save sinners. We end the Epiphany season on top of the Mount of Transfiguration where we hear the voice of God tell us, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"

Peter, James, and John may have thought that they knew Jesus very well. Jesus' transfiguration revealed just how much more there was to Jesus than they could have imagined. They were granted a brief glimpse of His glory.

Through the coming weeks of the Lenten Season, Holy Week, and Easter, God will again reveal to us the depth of love Jesus has for us. With the hymn writer Samuel Crossman, we will soon declare:

My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I  
That for my sake

My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow!

We don't know it all. One day we will. "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known" (1 Corinthians 13:12). Until then we rejoice that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

**L** Heavenly Father, while He was praying, Your Son, Jesus, revealed His glory to Peter, James and John. Grant that we, also gathered in prayer, would see Him by faith and receive from Him the redemption He has accomplished for us.

**C** Amen.

**L** O God, Your Son shines in resurrected light. Illuminate Your Church with His brightness, that we would tell the world of His mighty deliverance.

**C** Amen.

**L** Heavenly Father, as Your Son cares faithfully for His Holy Church, grant us a sure confidence in Him and give us faithful hearts to serve Him according to the callings He has given us.

**C** Amen.

**L** Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. We thank You for the protection granted to all who have attended to our needs during this pandemic. Thank You that are now experiencing a decline in the number of new infections and an ease of restrictions. Continue to strengthen all those who serve us in the medical field. Give Your comfort and peace to all who are suffering from this illness or others. Be with those who mourn. Grant to them the hope and assurance of a blessed reunion in heaven.

**C** Amen.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

**From All That Dwell Below the Skies** Lutheran Service Book 816, Lutheran Worship 440, The Lutheran Hymnal 15



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies      Let the Cre - a - tor's  
2 E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord;      E - ter - nal truth at -  
3 All praise to God the Fa - ther be,      All praise, e - ter - nal



praise a - rise;      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
tends Thy Word.      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
Son, to Thee.      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung      Through ev - 'ry land by  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore      Till suns shall rise and  
Whom with the Spir - it we a - dore      For - ev - er and for -



ev - 'ry tongue.      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
set no more.      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
ev - er - more:      Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!

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### Farewell to Alleluia

Today we have reached a turning point in the Church Year. We leave the Christmas season and look forward to Easter. Before we can rightly celebrate Easter we will experience the forty days of spiritual renewal called "Lent." Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. So today, Transfiguration Sunday, we put away the singing of "Alleluia." During the season of Lent, we avoid singing "Alleluia" as a way to help us focus on the solemnity of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross for our sins. On Easter morning, when we celebrate our Lord's Resurrection, we will again sing "Alleluia" with joy and thanksgiving.



**Service Notes:**

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

### The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

#### February 28 – March 5, 2022

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

#### Verse of the Day: Psalm 45:2a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, You are the most handsome of the sons of men; Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia, Grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.

#### Introit Psalm 84:1–2, 9, 11; antiphon Psalm 84:4

- L** Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!
- C** How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!
- L** My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- C** Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!
- L** For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- C** 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.
- L** Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!

## Kyrie

<b>L</b>	O Lord,	<b>C</b>	<b>Have Mercy on us.</b>
<b>L</b>	O Christ,	<b>C</b>	<b>Have Mercy on us.</b>
<b>L</b>	O Lord,	<b>C</b>	<b>Have Mercy on us.</b>

The unique occurrence of Jesus' transfiguration is filled with memorable elements. It begins with Jesus' glorious appearance. Next, we witness Him in conversation with two towering figures from the Old Testament. Finally, we hear God the Father confirm Jesus as His Son, chosen to be our savior from sin, death, and the devil. If you and I were there with Peter, James, and John, we surely would agree with Peter's words, "It is good that we are here!"

Psalm 84 is a precursor to Peter's exclamation. It is a psalm of praise to the delights of being in God's presence. It was originally written about God's dwelling place in the temple in Jerusalem. It certainly applies to Peter's experience on the Mount of Transfiguration. It pertains to us today when we rest secure in God's love with fellow believers in God's house in church on Sundays.

Some people are fond of an old cliché that goes something like this. "I feel closer to God...on the golf course, fishing, hiking in the mountains, etc." Nature can indeed be awe-inspiring. We can see God's almighty power reflected in the grandeur of nature. However, all of these comments miss one important point. Nature can't communicate God's love for us in Christ.

In God's house, we learn about Jesus' cross. We learn about forgiveness. We learn God's promise to never leave us or forsake us.

Most people throughout the history of the world were well aware of the harshness of nature. Much of what they did in life was directed toward surviving in an unloving and uncaring natural world.

Modern lives are pampered with central heating and air conditioning. We travel by car or plane. We find our food in supermarkets. Our skin is protected with sunscreen. The list goes on.

God's people recognize that the beauty of nature cannot compare with the loveliness of God's house. What makes God's house lovely? It is the message that we learn there. Nature does not care about us but God has loved us so much that He gave His only Son to be our savior.

In God's house, we learn that "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Because the Good Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep, we will "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Let us pray: Lord God, our heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of coming to Your house and learning about Your love for us in Christ. Grant that we would be counted among those who exclaim with King David, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Amen.

## Tuesday

<b>L</b>	In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
<b>C</b>	<b>Amen.</b>

### Verse of the Day: Psalm 45:2a

<b>L</b>	Alleluia, Alleluia, You are the most handsome of the sons of men; Alleluia.
<b>C</b>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia, Grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.</b>

## Kyrie

<b>L</b>	O Lord,	<b>C</b>	<b>Have Mercy on us.</b>
<b>L</b>	O Christ,	<b>C</b>	<b>Have Mercy on us.</b>
<b>L</b>	O Lord,	<b>C</b>	<b>Have Mercy on us.</b>

**L** Let us pray: 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.

**C** Amen.

Jesus' transfiguration and His consultation with Moses and Elijah strengthened Him for completing His mission to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It also prepared Peter, James, and John for the difficult days ahead. It helps us to understand that there is more to reality than what our inadequate human senses can make known to us.

Moses and Elijah were representatives of God's word as revealed in the Old Testament. The Law or Torah is often called the Five Books of Moses. Elijah represented all the prophets who spoke of the coming savior. Peter told the people of Caesarea, "To him (Jesus) all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43).

The Gospel is a mystery to human understanding. It doesn't make sense to us. By nature, we believe in cause and effect. Fairness demands that people get what they deserve. The fact that God would sacrifice His only-begotten Son for sinners is an unfathomable mystery. It is only through the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, that we learn God forgives us and bestows upon us an inheritance in heaven. We believe this because the Holy Spirit has produced faith in our hearts.

May we always listen to Jesus, God's Son, and trust in Him for full and free salvation.

Let us pray: 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. Amen.

## **Wednesday – Ash Wednesday**

### **Ash Wednesday Prayer**

Gracious Savior I fall at your feet this day as your Church once more enters the Lenten season to meditate upon your passion, by which we have been eternally redeemed.

In spirit I appear before you in sackcloth and ashes in true repentance; let me receive your full pardon. Do not let the pleasures of life, the worries of the day, and the activities of my daily routine crowd You out of my heart and out of my thoughts. Draw me to Your wounded side, and cleanse me with Your most precious blood. Bring healing to my soul and peace to my mind. By Your grace, let me crucify my sinful affections, lusts, and desires. Make me more than a conqueror over every temptation.

I confess to You all my sins. Let none of them cling to me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Teach me to love You more and more. Give me grace to Confess You as my Savior, who has redeemed me on Calvary, lifting me out of the darkness of sin to be Your own. Gracious Savior, let Your constraining love keep me and all God's children steadfast to the end. Amen.

*Lutheran Book of Prayer*  
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**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Psalm 51:1–13

- L** <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- C** <sup>2</sup>**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**
- L** <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- C** <sup>4</sup>**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**
- L** <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- C** <sup>6</sup>**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
- L** <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C** <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
- L** <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- C** <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- L** <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C** <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- L** <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
**C** and sinners will return to you.

## Kyrie

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Christ, | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |

## Joel 2:12–14

- <sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
- Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and he relents over disaster.
- <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD your God?

## 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

<sup>20b</sup>We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by

great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

### **Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21**

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

<sup>16</sup>“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Yesterday was Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday). It was a day of revelry before the somber season of Lent. Strictly speaking, there is nothing inherently wrong with festivities at any time of the year. However, approaching a season of repentance with a party does seem contrary to the spirit and purpose of Lent. Nevertheless, it does illustrate an important point about repentance.

Repentance is not something that can be forced! True repentance comes from the startling recognition of sin and its consequences. This is something that cannot be programmed. It is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Martin Luther calls this the alien or foreign work of the Holy Spirit. The proper work of the Holy Spirit is bringing forgiveness through faith in the Gospel that Jesus is the savior who died for the sins of the world. But before that can happen, the Holy Spirit must convince us of our need for a savior.

King David was fully convinced that his scheming had covered up the consequence of his twin sins of adultery and murder. If God had not sent the prophet Nathan to challenge His unrepentant heart, David would have gone to His grave without true repentance.

By the working of the Holy Spirit through the words of the prophet, David repented. He left us a remembrance of his repentance in Psalms 32 and 51.

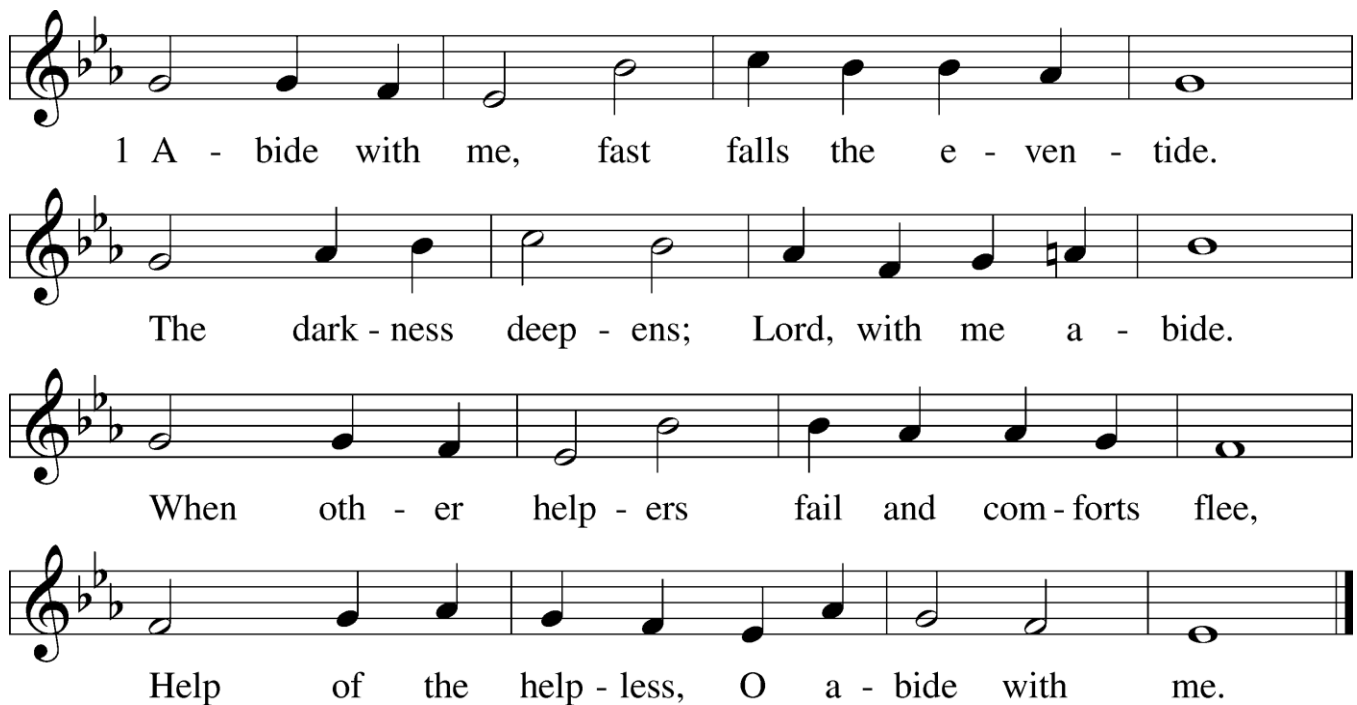
Read Psalm 51 again and imagine what David experienced in his heart. As far as possible make his words, your words.

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy  
 blot out my transgressions.  
<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
 and cleanse me from my sin!  
<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
 and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
 and done what is evil in your sight,  
  
<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
 and renew a right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence,  
 and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
 and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
 (Psalm 51:1-4; 10-12)

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Abide with Me** Lutheran Service Book 876, Lutheran Worship 490, The Lutheran Hymnal 552  
 Stanzas 1 & 6



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

## Thursday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Verse of the Day: Psalm 45:2a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, You are the most handsome of the sons of men; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia, Grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.

### Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

### Psalm 99

- L** <sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!  
**C** <sup>2</sup>The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.  
**L** <sup>3</sup>Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!  
**C** <sup>4</sup>The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity;  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.  
**L** <sup>5</sup>Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!  
**C** <sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon his name.  
They called to the LORD, and he answered them.  
**L** <sup>7</sup>In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them.  
**C** <sup>8</sup>O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them,  
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.  
**L** <sup>9</sup>Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

In a few weeks, the motion picture industry will celebrate the 92<sup>nd</sup> Academy Award Ceremony. This star-studded gala and the movie business have changed in many ways over the years. While these changes could provoke many comments, some things haven't changed. One of them is their propensity for making sequels to successful productions.

I've lost track of the number of Rocky films and Star Trek movies. The James Bond franchise is approaching 60 years old. When talking about sequels, you will often hear it said that the first movie in a series was the best. However, on a few occasions, the second in a series towers over the rest.

While reading Psalm 99 to prepare for today's meditation, I thought to myself, "I wonder how many people miss this wonderful psalm because it is right next to Psalm 100." Psalm 100 is such an awesome psalm that it gets all the attention. I have to admit that until now I hadn't noticed how breathtaking Psalm 99 is.

While reading Psalm 99, I realized that in some ways Psalm 100 could be considered a response and follow-up to Psalm 99. If Psalm 100 is a sequel to Psalm 99, let me suggest that you read them together and see if you agree.

The reign of God is a great blessing for believers. If God were not reigning, evil would be in charge of the world. But this is not the case. Evil must tremble before the Lord because He uses His might to bring justice, equity, and righteousness.



It is an awesome thing that God hears and answers our prayers! He provides forgiveness to repentant people but He avenges the wrongdoing of the unrepentant. This is why we exalt the Lord and worship our Holy God. One way of doing this is with Psalm 100.

- <sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
<sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!  
<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

## Friday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Psalm 45:2a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, You are the most handsome of the sons of men; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia, Grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Deuteronomy 34:1–12

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup>all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, <sup>3</sup>the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” <sup>5</sup>So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, <sup>6</sup>and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. <sup>7</sup>Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. <sup>8</sup>And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

<sup>9</sup>And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>10</sup>And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, <sup>11</sup>none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, <sup>12</sup>and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

I began the second leg of my educational journey on my way to becoming a pastor in 1971 at Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne, Ind. This turned out to be the retirement year of the founding president of Concordia, Martin J. Neeb, Sr. I remember videotaping his retirement banquet. As is so often the case, I was unaware at the time that I was in the presence of a great man.

He came to my mind as I read about Moses on top of Mount Nebo. In honor of his retirement, the faculty presented a talent show titled The Faculty Follies. It featured light-hearted teasing and references to Concordia as Mount Neebo!

Martin J. Neeb, Sr. was born in 1906 in Ontario, Canada. He graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1929. From 1929 until 1945, he was a professor at Concordia College (now Concordia University Texas), Austin, Texas. He earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Texas in 1937, where he also served as a visiting instructor. In 1945, he became the first executive secretary for the Board for Higher Education of the Synod.

He upgraded the educational programs of the synod's fourteen colleges and seminaries. He developed expansion plans for the synod's ministerial education program to include a final two years of college-level training and a B.A. degree for students entering the synod's seminaries. Prior to his time, students entered seminary with two years of junior college and received a Bachelor of Divinity upon graduation. In 1954, he became the first president of Concordia Senior College.

He was presented with honorary doctorates by Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska (now Concordia University Nebraska) and Valparaiso University. Since 1989, Concordia University Texas has awarded annually the Martin J. Neeb Teaching Excellence Award to a deserving faculty member.

Deuteronomy 34:5 records, "So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab." As towering a figure as Moses was, his ministry and service to the Lord came to an end. In a small way, Martin Neeb was a towering figure in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He entered retirement 50 years ago this spring. There is almost no one left who would recognize his name.

You and I are called upon to serve the Lord. We may or may not become well known for our service. We may or may not be remembered when our service is over. But what we do for the Lord has great importance.

God used Moses to deliver His people from bondage in Egypt and bring them to the Promised Land. In a way, every congregation in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has been touched by the work of Martin Neeb and His efforts to provide our church with a more educated clergy.

God has not called you or me to be a Moses or a Martin J. Neeb, Sr. However, He has called us to serve in His Church. Not everyone is called to be a pastor or teacher but God has the need for faithful laypeople. What we do may or may not be remembered but our service has eternal significance. A Sunday school teacher telling the story of salvation serves an eternal purpose. A mother or father teaching bedtime prayers to their children serves an eternal purpose. Whoever we are, what we do for the Lord has eternal importance.

God granted Moses the opportunity to see the Promised Land and the destination for his wondering people. One day, God will grant you the opportunity to see the fruit of your labors in heaven. There you will learn how God used you in a vital way for the salvation of souls, both young and old.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the faithfulness of Your servants Moses and Martin Neeb. Grant that we too would be faithful in our service to You so that little lambs for whom the Savior died would join us for eternity in heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Saturday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Gradual Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- L** Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!  
**C** For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.  
**L** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
**C** bring an offering, and come into his courts!

## Verse of the Day: Psalm 45:2a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, You are the most handsome of the sons of men; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia, Grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Christ, | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |

## Hebrews 3:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup>who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup>For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup>(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup>Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup>but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

In the resource pages at the back of some Bibles, you will find a chart listing parallels between Jesus and Moses. Many Bible scholars have made this comparison but the writer of the Hebrews was one of the first.

Here are a few parallels to whet your appetite. Both Moses and Jesus were preserved in childhood from evil rulers who sought their deaths. Moses led people out of bondage in Egypt to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea. Jesus brings us out of bondage to sin through the waters of baptism. God fed the people with manna from heaven while Moses was leading the people. Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000 and the 4,000. You can see how the list can go on and on.

In Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses prophesied that God would one day send a prophet like him. He said, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.” Jesus is the fulfillment of that prophecy. On the top of the Mount of Transfiguration, God the Father directed us to “Listen to Him!”

But in comparing Moses and Jesus there is one comparison that we must be careful not to make. Jesus did not come to give us new and better laws than the ones Moses gave. On the top of Mount Sinai, Moses received the Law. On Calvary's hill, Jesus freed us from the law of sin and death. Moses brought the law and through the law came the knowledge of sin. Jesus brings the Gospel that forgives our sins and gives us life and salvation.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for Moses and all the Old Testament prophets but much more than that thank You for our Prophet, Priest, and King—Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us faithfulness to Your holy law as revealed in the Ten Commandments. When we stumble and fall, grant us faith to cling to Jesus and His cross for life and salvation. Amen.

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