

Transfiguration Sunday, 2010
Good Hope Lutheran Church
Luke 9: 28 ff

We turn this day to the story of the Transfiguration of our Lord, recorded for us in Luke chapter 9. An interesting text! Keep an eye on it, and the Lord be with you.

And let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day long ago you gave your disciples a glimpse of the glory of heaven, before leading them to your cross here on earth. Do the same for us now, we pray. Speak to us in the depths of our hearts. Fill us with faith and hope and courage, awaken us. And guide us along the path that leads to the cross, and beyond the cross, to the empty tomb. Lord Jesus in your name we pray, AMEN.

So here we are again, on another Sunday morning. You've said hi to your friends, we've sung a hymn and heard some nice Bible lessons read. You've settled comfortably into your seats, and as I begin to drone on with another 12 to 15 minute sermon you maybe start to notice, it's kind of warm in here; and you're a little drowsy; and gosh, am I going to be able to stay awake long enough to hear what the sermon is about this week? For a number of you, the answer is no, you will not be able to stay awake that long—I know. I can see you. Uh-huh, yeah.

But, ok. Getting drowsy in church may not be the worst thing in the world, to be honest. I mean after all, you've pretty much heard it all before, haven't you? You know what's coming. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. Born of

the virgin Mary, He grew up to be a teacher, and preacher. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, ministered to the lost and lonely. He called disciples, and taught the crowds in word and deed about the love of God, and the plan of God for our salvation. He then died, on a cross, for the forgiveness of our sins, and on the 3rd day rose again from the dead, to open for us and all people the way of everlasting life, is there a part of that you didn't already know? Is there something there you've never heard before? Same old same old, right? So would it really be such a big deal, if you nodded off, just a little?

But before you do. While most of you are still more or less awake. Let me just ask one question. I know you know the story. You have certainly heard it before. I know you know the story but. What if it's true. What if it's true, what if you're not here just because you're mom makes you. What if you're not here just because your great-grandma came over on the Famous Dove and this is simply what your family does in Arlington on the weekend. What if you're not here just because you've been absent a few weeks, and you'd rather show up at church on a Sunday morning than have me show up on your doorstep next Tuesday, what *if it's all true*? He is, God. And He has, come looking for you, He is here with us now. He can see you, and someday when you die, you will see Him too, what if it's not just a good story to

make little children behave. What if it happens to be true, what if Jesus who died and rose again is Lord and Savior and He's here looking for you?

Would you wake up for that?

Peter James and John were tired. They had seen and heard Jesus preach and teach for three years solid already, they'd climbed a bunch of mountains with Him and now here they were, climbing another one. They get to the top, Jesus kneels down to pray—well the disciples knew *this* could take a while, so as Jesus knelt down, they started dozing off. Suddenly, while He was praying, the appearance of His face changed. His clothing became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared, speaking with Him; and the glory of God overshadowed them all. This is My Beloved Son, said the voice from heaven. Listen to Him.

They woke up. The disciples woke up and, for a brief shining moment, knew in their hearts that following Jesus was not just a nice pious habit they'd gotten into. It was the truth! He really *was* the Son of God, and He really *had* come into this world to save them. He really was, right there, and always would be, He would never really leave them! Same Jesus, same story, same promises; and for that matter same world waiting at the foot of the mountain, you'll notice in verse 37 that just as soon as Jesus and the disciples climb back down the next day there are just more cranky people

out there waiting for them. There are more frustrations and more problems to deal with, “some things never change” I guess. The world is the world and will be again tomorrow, the disciples knew that. But Jesus is God’s own Son, our Savior yesterday today and forever, that’s the truth, that doesn’t change either! They knew *that* all of a sudden too. And somehow, knowing Jesus, it changes everything.

I don’t blame you for being drowsy on Sunday, I don’t. You’ve probably had a hard week too, it can be a rough world out there for all of us. Families have illnesses, there are economic concerns and marital spats and thoughtless neighbors saying thoughtless things and even good events like an upcoming high school graduation can be a source of stress. Speaking! And then there are your sins, the ones you’ve confessed before and now have to come back and confess today all over again, doesn’t seem to change much, does it? The inner spiritual struggle soldiers on, as always. Guilt and remorse linger. We may be tired. I understand that, I am too and so were Peter James and John.

But what if it’s true. What if the words we repeat each week, actually made it to your heart for one moment today, what if this Jesus thing is real, and really for you. You are forgiven. You are redeemed. Despite what the world around you might say, you are loved and valued and treasured by the

God who made you, the very same God who died and rose again to save you. Yes, it's the same story you've heard before, and yes you know it all already. Yes, it's still all about Jesus, who is, yes, exactly the same, yesterday today, and forever. And yes the world is still the same, too, and still waiting, you'll notice that the minute you walk back out the door. But yes Jesus is true, and yes He is *for you*—and yes, somehow that does change everything. Starting right now.

May it be so for you, and for us all. Sermon's done, by the way, wake up!
And AMEN.