

FEBRUARY 19, 2023
TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD



Jesus gives comfort and strength.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 17:1-19	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	Exodus 24:12-18	Moses goes up to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	2 Peter 1:16-21	Eye witnesses of Christ's glory
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:1-8	Joshua becomes Moses' successor
Thursday	Matthew 17:10-21	Jesus cures a boy with a demon
Friday	Psalms 99	Celebrating the rule of God
Saturday	Psalms 2	The Lord's chosen king
Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."
And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.*
Matthew 17:7-8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory, just as you shined brightly on Jesus in his transfiguration, may your presence in our lives give us comfort and strength for each day. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you fed your people in the wilderness and revealed your glory from a mountain; we thank you for feeding us and guiding us in your ways. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of glory give you comfort and strength.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Shine, Jesus, Shine



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What gets in the way of taking action and trying something new?
- Jesus tells his followers to "get up and do not be afraid." What gives you courage to be bold and live your faith in daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 17:1-9.

In the midst of the challenges and fears of everyday life, it can be a gift and a source of comfort and strength to have a "God moment" experience. It happened to Peter, James, and John. It can also happen to us, that sense that God is near and all is well. Our comfort is not in any god or spiritual experience, but one that is grounded in Jesus, the Son of God, the one who came to die for our sins on another mountain, Golgotha. The Mount of Transfiguration brings together Jesus, Moses, Elijah, and unprepared disciples. What makes this moment a valued God moment is that the disciples are comforted and encouraged "*Get up and do not be afraid*" (v. 7). Their focus becomes exclusively on Jesus alone. What a gift and what a moment to see Jesus and have the assurance of God's presence! At Jesus' transfiguration we see the Savior we want in comfort and strength. On Golgotha we see the Savior we need through the forgiveness of sins. In Jesus we get both.

Discuss: What are concerns in your life that need God's comfort and strength?

Pray: **Dear God, help us to see Jesus in our mountaintop highs and in our valley lows, and may that vision give us comfort and strength to be his faithful followers. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help those who live in fear?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Transfiguration means to be changed. The transfiguration brings together both the human and divine nature of Jesus Christ. Jesus' "*face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light*" (Matthew 17:2). It must have been an amazing experience for Peter, James, and John to see Jesus in that way! Draw or write a list of ways you experience God's presence in your life. Take time to think or talk about what you have drawn or written. Then light two candles to represent the totally human and totally divine nature of Jesus and pray: **Dear God, thank you for shining your light through Jesus. We ask to receive that light and share it with others. In Jesus' name, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org