

FEBRUARY 23, 2020  
TRANSFIGURATION  
OF OUR LORD



*Disciples have a mountaintop experience.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 17:1-9</b>	<b>Transfiguration of Jesus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Exodus 24:12-18</b>	<b>Moses goes up to Mt. Sinai</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Peter 1:16-21</b>	<b>Eye witnesses of Christ's glory</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</b>	<b>Giving, praying, and fasting</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Genesis 8:1-22</b>	<b>The Lord's promise for the earth</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Genesis 22:1-19</b>	<b>The Lord will provide</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 2</b>	<b>The Lord's chosen king</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 4:1-11</b>	<b>Temptation of Jesus</b>

### 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:**

Almighty and eternal God, help us to be aware of your saving presence in our lives and in our world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtimes Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share, on every table, everywhere. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord Almighty bless you to see Jesus and to bring you comfort and strength.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus on the  
Mountain Peak*



### 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:

- Identify a special place in your life where you go to experience God's presence.
- Tell of or think about a time you had a special sense of God's presence in your life.
- How do you think the experience of Jesus' transfiguration witnessed by Peter, James, and John impacted the disciples after Jesus' death and resurrection?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Matthew 17:1-9.

In the midst of the challenges and hurts 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 also happens 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 links us to Jesus, the Son of God, the one who came to die on another mountain, Golgotha. This mountain experience brings together Jesus, Moses, Elijah, and unprepared disciples. What makes this moment a valued "God moment" is that the disciples are comforted ("do not be afraid") and their focus becomes exclusively on Jesus alone. What a moment and a gift it is to see Jesus before us with total focus and concentration. Have you had a special moment that gave you a comforting sense that Jesus was with you?

*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 your faithful followers. In Jesus' name, amen.**

### SERVICE



A clear voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5b). The key word here is "listen." A Greek philosopher, Epictetus once said, "We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak." One way to serve others is to simply listen. Who, in your life this week, would appreciate the gift of listening?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Exodus 24, Moses went up on a cloud-covered mountain. "Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights" (vs. 18b). We are about to enter another 40-day period of prayer and fasting as we prepare for Ash Wednesday this week. The day before is called Shrove Tuesday and is recognized around the world as a day to eat fattening foods, especially pancakes. Prepare a pancake feast on Tuesday this week to enjoy with friends and family. After feasting, say this blessing: **May God bless you through your journey this Lent.**



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