

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen

I read to you again verse 9 from our Gospel reading.

- It becomes the basis for our meditation here this morning.
- “And He was transfigured before them, and His face shown like the sun, and His clothes became white as light.”

Today, as I’ve already alluded to earlier the fact that this is Transfiguration Sunday.

- Transfiguration Sunday is always the last Sunday before we head into Lent.
- Ash Wednesday will be this Wednesday.

And it is appropriate that the last Sunday before the season of Lent is Transfiguration Sunday.

- Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain, speculated which mountain this is but we are never told.....
- And Jesus was transfigured.
- That is, His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light.

Proof positive that this Jesus that we will follow to the cross is the Messiah and our salvation.

- And the glory, the light, the brightness shown on Him.
- The bright dazzling light that appeared.....signaled the glory that declared the presence of God in Jesus on the mountain.

Light.....we all need light don’t we?

- We need it for practical reasons, we need it for physical reasons, and we certainly need it for spiritual reasons.

Just like we need light, we need Jesus, the Light of the world.....

- The one whose brightness and glory shown while God the Father declared.....
- “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to Him.”

Light, we all need light. And we can draw parallels between our need for physical light and our need for Jesus who is the Light of the world.

- Let me give you some practical applications for all this of what I am talking about.

Experts tell us light is essential to our health.

- They talk of 5 essentials.
- Air, water, food, warmth, and light.

It regulates our sleep-wake cycle.

- It can also help with daily routines, from bright functional light to keep you energized and up your concentration level.....
- To warm light that crates a cozy ambiance that helps you to unwind in the evening.
- Light enables you to get more done and even makes you happier.

Light is said to help our bodies produce Vitamin D.

- An essential ingredient for bone strength, cell growth and immune functioning.
- It also keeps inflammation in check.

Likewise Jesus is essential

- His light and presence gives you the ability to function, to have joy, and be able to be a worker in His kingdom.
- And His presence helps to keep our inflammation, or should I say pride, in check.

Let me go further and give you some practical, specific examples of all this.

- Little Beverly was being moved from the crib into a big girl bed.
- Her parents were concerned about the transition.
- The stress involved, lost sleep, falling out of bed.....all these sorts of things.

The big day came. Mom and dad had played it up.

- They put little Beverly to bed.
- Soon they heard her crying.

They went in her room to console and encourage her.

- Amongst the sobbing they soon realized that little Beverly was not troubled with the new bigger bed; but with the dark.
- The little mobile light that had been hanging over the crib was no longer in use.

To little Beverly.....and us to.....

- The dark represented unknowns.
- Uncertainty.
- Not knowing what might be out there lurking.

Little Beverly, and we, need light.

- Both physical light but also the light of Christ.
- He gives us our security.
- He takes away the unknowns and the uncertainties.
- He provides the protection for what maybe out there lurking ahead.

Another example.

- Who of us has not stumbled around and struggled in the dark at night when the electricity went out?
- It's easy to get disoriented. To get confused.

It even becomes a matter of safety.

- Bumping into things.
- Stubbing your toe.
- You can't even do anything.
- Try reading a book in the dark!

So it is without the light of Jesus.

- We have no sense of direction.
- We cannot function.
- We are in a state of confusion.
- We wonder around aimlessly.

Light also has impacts on us in other ways.

- Who of us have not heard or said to ourselves.....all we have is cloudy days.
- It is so depressing. We need some sunshine.

There was more associated with the commercial than just depression but who of us doesn't remember the old tag line in the commercials for Motel Six?

- I'm Tom Bodette and....."We'll LEAVE THE LIGHT ON."

- It conveyed safety, etc.; but it also conveyed warmth and welcoming.
- From Motel Six's own words, with the commercial they hoped to bring a more personal touch to people's lives.

Christ brings warmth and welcoming and a personal touch as He stoops down and cares for each of us individually.

- Christ has also kept that light on for us.

Darkness also conveys sin and evil.

- You've heard me say this before but inmates at the prison tell me darkness was their best friend.

Christ brings and shines light on that evil and darkness.

- John chapter one verses 4 and 5 tell us.....
- "In Him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

And so now today we are invited with Peter, James, and John to go up the mountain to the transfiguration of our Lord.

- The account begins, "After 6 days Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain."

After 6 days?

- After 6 days from what?

From when Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

- And now in the light and the glory and the words of God our Father, we are given full confidence, full assurance that this Jesus is the very Son of God.

And 6 days earlier Jesus explicitly told His disciples that now He must make His way straight to Jerusalem and go the way of the cross.

- And in the Light and in the announcement by the Father, He made it clear that the way of the cross is necessary and the way for our salvation.

We today will end the season of Epiphany.

- The season of.....Light.

It began with Jesus' Baptism where God the Father said, "This is My beloved Son."

- And it ends today on the Mount of Transfiguration where God the Father again says.....
- "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him."
- And in that light and in those words and in that confidence and assurance, we will follow Jesus to the cross.

Lent is a penitential season. After today we will put the alleluias away until Easter.

- And the light of Christ will serve another purpose. It will shine on us and show us our sinfulness and the need for this Savior.

From the passion account, let me give you a couple of examples of this.

- On the Mount of Transfiguration Peter, James, and John were terrified. They were afraid.
- And the Book of Luke tells us the 3 disciples were heavy with sleep.

Fast forward to the Garden of Gethsemane.

- Jesus is in prayer and about to be arrested.
- And Peter James and John not once, not twice, but 3 times fell asleep.

On the Mount of Transfiguration we are told the light of the glory of God was in the face of Jesus.

- And again fast forward.
- In Jerusalem, that same face will be spit on by man.

And Jesus would go to the cross.

- And from noon until 3:00 p.m. there was total darkness on the earth.

But the story does not end there. And now we come to Easter morning.

- Very early in the morning.....as the sun was dawning.
- The Book of Matthew tells us that the angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were as white as snow.
- There is more to the story.

This Jesus is the Messiah.

- And we will see our sin and the need for a Savior.
- And we have been given proof that this Jesus is our Savior.....carrying out the plan of God the Father to win for us salvation.
- The way of the cross.

And we will again follow Him to the cross but then also see Him risen from the dead and ascended into heaven.

- You see, there is much more to this light. The light of Christ's victory will be our light and victory also

And one day we will be with Him for all eternity.

- Want more proof of life everlasting? The transfiguration of our Lord provides that also.

Who appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration?

- Moses who had died some 15 hundred years before Christ appeared on the earth.
- And Elijah whose appearance on earth was some 850 years before Christ.

And in eternity, what then will be that light?

- What about the light in heaven?

Revelation chapter 21 verse 23 tells us.

- "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp."

Oh dear fellow disciples of Christ.....

- The transfiguration of our Lord is so spectacular and shows and tells us so much.

As we enter this Lenten Season.....

- May we follow Jesus to the cross and from the cross to that glorious Easter morning.
- We will again be given everything necessary and every assurance that salvation in Christ is ours.

You see, the Light does change everything.

- Have a glorious Lent.
- Amen.

(Please stand) And now, may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Having heard the Word of God we now prepare our hearts and minds to confess together the words of the Nicene Creed as found on page 158 in your hymnal.