

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

God Manifests His Glory in the Body of Christ Jesus, Transfigured for Us by His Cross



Background: The response to an Epiphany is often “*Oh Now I Get It*”. This weekend all doubt that Jesus Christ was both true God and True man and therefore able to pay the full price for our sins is made obvious. If that is not enough evidence, just a couple of days later, Christ raised Lazarus from the dead after his body already had time to rot! So we recognize that Son of God actually spent a number of years on earth—with one specific purpose: To fulfil God’s plan of salvation by having his blood shed for us on a cross to pay the full price for all the sins of all mankind. Thus the message of the angels at Christmas time is fulfilled. There is Peace on Earth for all who believe and trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Their ugly sins are washed away and they live with Him in perfect bliss at the end of earthly time. May we never lose sight of this heavenly gift.

The Transfiguration of Christ Carl Bloch 1872

The Lessons: Exodus 24:8–18, 2 Peter 1:16–21, & Matthew 17:1–9 The Transfiguration confirms “*the prophetic word ... to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place*” (2 Peter 1:19). The divine glory of Jesus is manifested in the word of His apostles, who were “*eyewitnesses of his majesty*” (2 Peter 1:16). “*He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun*” (Matt. 17:2). Moses and Elijah witnessed the fulfillment of the Old Testament in this Lord Jesus, and the Father testified concerning Him: “*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased*” (Matt. 17:5). By His own blood, shed on the cross, Jesus makes and seals the new covenant with us. Hence, “*the appearance of the glory of the LORD*” is no longer “*like a devouring fire*” (Ex. 24:17), but it is graciously revealed in His own body. As “*Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel*” went up the mountain with Moses and “*beheld God, and ate and drank*” (Ex. 24:9, 11), we also behold the Lord our God in Christ Jesus, and we abide with Him as we eat and drink His body and blood at the altar.