

## Listen to Him

The gospel for this coming Sunday (Transfiguration) is Mark 9:2-9. This means that Lent is right around the corner. This follows the confusion that Peter has concerning Jesus needing to suffer and die. Now Peter, James and John join Jesus in the Transfiguration.

Moses is the representative of the old covenant and the promise of salvation, which was soon to be fulfilled in the death of Jesus. Elijah is the appointed restorer of all things (Mal 4:5–6; Mk 9:11–13). The disciples here witness the confirmation of Jesus' claim (5:17) that he fulfills the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). Lk 9:31 says that they talked about Christ's death. Moses, the great OT deliverer and lawgiver, and Elijah, the representative of the prophets. Moses' work had been finished by Joshua, Elijah's by Elisha (another form of the name Joshua). They now spoke with Jesus (whose Hebrew name was Joshua) about the "exodus" he was about to accomplish, by which he would deliver his people from the bondage of sin and bring to fulfillment the work of both Moses and Elijah.

Peter makes the suggestion that they stay there by having tents constructed. This was reminiscent of the time Israel traveled in the wilderness and the tabernacle (tent) was a constant reminder of God's presence. This was not a well-thought out utterance. Mark tells us: *For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. (9:6).*

The last verse of hymn 414 (LSB) says "Tis good Lord to be here! Yet we may not remain. But since Thou bidst us leave the mount, come with us to the plain." We, too, function on the plain of life. Thankfully we don't have to be alone on our journey.

There are many voices in our world that want to be heard. They often have a personal axe to grind and want us to join them. Frequently these messages are very flawed. When God speaks through his Word we need to listen to him because his message for us is always in our best interest. The original language for our verse is: *"This is My Son, the Beloved, keep on hearing Him."* We will be eternally blessed when we continue in God's Word.

Prayer: Lord God Heavenly Father, thank you for speaking your love for your Son and his ministry. Help us to be faithful in being in your Word and receiving the comforting message of our salvation. Use us to share this inerrant and soothing message with all those around us.