
The sermon text for today is based on the Gospel,
Matthew Chapter 17, verses 1 to 9.

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Wow what an event. How would you imagine yourself responding to this? Being right there standing on that mountain with Jesus and seeing this brightness, this glory shining wow this experience. Then Moses and Elijah appear as well.

How you begin to process this moment? Would you reach for your phone to document it wanting to share it with others on social media?

Well this is how the disciples responded. Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'

That sounds like a good idea, to set up somewhere to stay and to enjoy this moment maybe trying to keep it going.

But while Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'

When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. 'Get up,' he said. 'Don't be afraid.' When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Just like that it was all over.

So what does this mean for us as Luther would ask?

In our world we see brokenness and bickering and hurting. We see how easily an argument can turn into a long standing vendetta. We see how there are often two or more sides to a discussion and when we put our human desires and feelings first we can often try to push an agenda.

In our world we have people fighting, there are some who lie about others or deliberately share only half a truth to get someone more into trouble than was needed. We have disunity in our world and yes friends even in our church.

Synod last week highlighted the desire for unity in the debate on ordination. But really friends there are more things that divide us in our church at a national and district level and even at our own church level. Sometimes you hear a rumour about another person – what do you do? Do you agree with the person telling you the juicy story or does the light of Jesus shine in you so you seek out that person and find out for yourself?

We are broken, there is fighting and differences and hurt and sorrow in our world and in our church. And today our text shatters that which we sometimes get used to. That the us and them mentality kicks and instead of seeking to forgive, learn and grow for each other we take a side and dig in.

You see the best outcome from Synod regarding the debate, or rather it would be better to say discussion is that God wins. After all isn't it His church with His Son Jesus the head? With the opportunity to explore how the church might look with one teaching and two practices.

For so long we have wanted our church to vote on one or the other, to have one side win and not the other. Yet God in His wisdom still has the theologians having differing opinions both pastors and lay people. Now we cannot take a side only pray that God in His wisdom guides the next years on going forward.

So in our division, our brokenness what does God tell us? What does all this mean for us?

Since the beginning of the church year we have been through the season of Advent, Christmas, the Epiphany of our Lord and now the Sundays after that event bringing us right here to the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus.

Advent and Christmas point to the end times to be ready for the coming of the Lord and also to remind us that the Lord has come as a tiny baby in fulfillment of the promise of God that He would send the messiah the one who saves Jesus.

Advent and Christmas highlight the old things being made new and gives us a foretaste of eternity already now. Jesus as we have a foretaste of the heavenly feast here in bread and wine the body and blood of Jesus.

The Sundays after the Epiphany of our Lord tell us about the kingdom and the light and how we are to live in the light and let the light of Christ shine through us. This now comes to the ultimate moment as God says to the disciples and to us today the modern disciples, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'

Listen to Him. Listen to Jesus in our brokenness, listen to Jesus in our division, our bickering and fighting, our lying, our failures, our sin. Listen to Him who says come to me all of you who are weary from fighting and dividing, lying and slandering and hurting others. All of you who seek your own way and not the way of the cross in Jesus Christ. All of you who are burdened from others sins and your own and Jesus says I will give you rest.

The disciples had a glimpse of the future in Jesus on the mountain as we have in His word and the actions of those around who bless us with words and deeds that are filled with the very love of God.

We have a glimpse of our future in the very supper of Jesus where we will dine with Him forever when He comes to take us to be with Him and yet we are not called to live in heaven but right here where God has placed you, your station and vocation in life.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, ‘Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead’.

Just so this moment for the disciples couldn’t become an experience to brag about Jesus grounds them in the truth. He does that to us so often.

He reminds them that they must wait until the resurrection – as this is then what they testify too, just as we are called to live and be in the light of the resurrected Jesus. We are not called to seek an experience so we can brag rather we are called to share Jesus, the risen living loving Lord Jesus who illuminates you with His word and shows you a path that is well lit by His light. Amen.