

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Aberfoyle Park

Home Worship Service

Led by Pastor Andy Kowald

February 27, 2022

Welcome & Introduction

I've got something for the kids...

SOMEONE: PUT A BROWN PAPER BAG OVER MY HEAD...

- *Spin me around*
- CONGREGATION CALLS OUT to tell me where the lectern is....
- *When I'm hopelessly lost, Glenda steps up and SAVES ME! She leads me to the lectern and takes the brown paper bag off!*

Don't play this at home kids... you'll have too much fun!

It was hard to know which way to go because I couldn't hear anyone clearly! There was so much noise!

But it was good to finally be close to someone I trusted!

When it came to understanding what Jesus was on about, the disciples often got around like they had a paper bag on their head!

They were so often clueless!

Jesus was often trying to help them see what God was really on about.
Today's Bible Story about the transfiguration of Jesus is about THAT.

The disciples could actually SEE and HEAR what was going on, but it was like some other noise was crowding out the truth. As it turns out, the noise was coming from disciple Peter's own mouth!

How often does our OWN noise stop us from hearing others!

To help clear things up, God puts a brown paper bag on the disciple's heads! The brown paper bag actually was a cloud. It stopped Peter babbling, and when the cloud went, they clearly saw Jesus. Just Jesus.

And they didn't get it straight away, but later, when thought back on what they had seen, they started to get just how God's heart really works. How His heart really works with US!

We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Songs

[Raise a Hallelujah](#) CCLI#7119315

[Crown Him Majesty](#) CCLI#6463818

Bible Reading

Luke 9:28-36

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. ³¹ They spoke about his departure, [a] which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.) ³⁴ While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Message

Last week, when Jesus said, **Love your enemies**, the Bible Reading said that He was speaking to His **listening ones**. To the ones that really wanted to hear what he said, and DO it!

In today’s story, our heavenly Father says of Jesus: ***This is my Son, whom I have chosen ...*** what’s next? ... ***LISTEN TO HIM***. What is it that He wants us to hear?

Luke is the only Gospel in the transfiguration story to use the word ***chosen*** – ***This is my Son, whom I have chosen...***

It reminds me of how the Apostle Peter later speaks of US?
you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people... 1 Peter 2:9

I get that I belong to God’s family because He CHOSE to do so.

- When I think of ME with all the times I fall short, I can’t imagine why...

- When I think of Jesus stepping in for me, and ON HIS ACCOUNT God chooses me – I GET THAT! THAT’S the ONLY way it could happen!

Jesus is CHOSEN... I am CHOSEN... YOU are CHOSEN!

I get a great deal of comfort out of reading the clumsy response of Peter. The Bible even adds its own commentary: ***He did not know what he was saying.***

Yet Peter, James and John were the special people that Jesus chose to witness His transfiguration. They got to see Jesus in His heavenly glory!

If Jesus would chose these numskulls, and see them rise to the kind of faith HE had, then maybe He knows what He is doing when He chooses US!

And having chosen us, Jesus telling us about how God works, and the life that means for us, but it takes some teaching!

Our story is in Luke chapter 9. If we just look at the evidence that chapter 9 alone brings – and there is plenty more – we see how the disciples were being taught.

At the beginning of chapter 9, Jesus sends his twelve disciples out ***to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick*** (9:2).

Four verses later we read, ***so they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere*** (9:6)

You could imagine when they came back to Jesus! They would have been full of exciting stories of all the great things they had done.

As a result, how do you think they thought God would build His kingdom?

- **with mighty acts of kindness!**
- **surely THAT would be a winner!**

OK... So the next story Luke mentions – just a couple verses later – a crowd of no less than 5,000 has gathered to listen to Jesus. It got late and the people had nothing to eat. So Jesus said to the disciples, ***give them something to eat...*** ...

“What?...**US**? How can WE feed all these people?”

In one question, Jesus burst their bubble! They had just come back from their glorious mission journey. They had just performed miracles left, right and center! This was how God was doing it! And Jesus, who had just given them the ability to do mighty things, puts them to the test...

And all their glory is wiped out with this ONE request of Jesus: ***You give them something to eat.*** (vv12-17).

They went from being power**FUL** to power**LESS**...

*The same happens in Luke 10... Jesus selects 72, sends them out, and they return **READ verses 17-20.***

God the Father says: **LISTEN TO JESUS...**
What did they need to learn from Jesus?

What they SAW on the mountain was Jesus in all His glory. Jesus clearly had the glory of God! He shone like blazing lightening! He didn't have to do ANYTHING to achieve heavenly glory.

So when they heard Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus about His death... Jesus didn't need to DIE in order to get His heavenly glory! He already had it!

He had to die, because HIS DEATH FOR US – and all of creation – was where God's glory would shine brightest!

Luke records that when Moses and Elijah talked to Jesus about His death in Jerusalem, they used the word EXODUS (εξοδος)... ³¹ ***They spoke about his departure (exodus), which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem.***

The EXODUS was the great salvation event of the Old Testament. Where God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt.

In His death, Jesus is now THE great salvation event. Rescuing humanity from the chains of sin and death.

Humans typically want glory for free!

- We want the glory of a healthy life **without** connection to the Healer.
- We want the glory of having money in the bank, **without** the goodness of giving to those in need.

But this is not GOD'S way.

God's glory through YOU, and IN you, are on display, not by seeing how rich you are, or healthy you are, or how spiritual you are...

God DOES desire for us to have health, and to have wealth to share around, and to be strong in faith... That's why the disciples could heal people. That's what is promised for ALL God's faithful people in eternity.

But what comes from Jesus is this: we do not chase the riches of the world. We chase the riches of sacrificial love that God's family shares. This is the baptised life!

St Paul says it this way in 2 Corinthians 3:18...

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord...

As we contemplate the blazing glory of Jesus, which is found in His death for us in Jerusalem, we remember that our greatest blessing is that our loving connection with our heavenly Father has been restored, and we now join His life of sacrificial love.
Amen.

Song

What a Beautiful Name CCLI#7068424

Confession and Absolution

Dear heavenly Father,
You would not show Your glory in any other way than through Jesus on the cross.
Though You do heal, and do mighty miracles, You desire to be found in our darkest places.
You even hide Yourself from us until we seek You there.
Please forgive us for imagining that we are truly blessed when we have the things of the world.
Please forgive us for chasing after the glory of results, as though our faith is made stronger through results.
We have many dark places, please enter those places and clean us and heal us.
We rely on Your mercy, in Jesus' name. Amen.'

Our heavenly Father HAS had mercy on us! He has sent His own Son to die for us. His Word is true, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I therefore declare: Your sin is forgiven! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers

Prayer points to ponder:

- Thank you Jesus that you have rescued us from sin and death and that in you, we have a life of blessing and riches that has nothing to do with money or wealth. Help stay close to you so we may understand and know the full measure of that blessing in our lives.
- We ask for your continued wisdom and guidance on our Call process, for our Call Committee and for the Pastor you are preparing to call to Our Saviour.
- We pray for your comfort, help and healing to those suffering with COVID or those who may be isolated from others because of COVID. Reassure them of your presence in their lives and your unending love.
- Be with those struggling with loneliness, depression, financial or health concerns. We pray especially for people in our own community. Remind them of your unending love and care for them and prompt each of us to reach out to those who need our support and friendship.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive

those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favour, and give you peace. Amen.

Song

[Yours Is the Kingdom](#) CCLI#4433448