

Scripture Readings

February 14, 2021

The Transfiguration

..... **About the text**

“**W**HAT SIGNS DO YOU see?”

In some form or other, that’s the first thing a doctor wants to know. What has been happening? Does the patient have a fever? Convulsions? Signs of trauma, past or present? Is the patient oriented to time and place? Responsive?

These are the kinds of signs described by the father whose son is afflicted. How distressing is that? watching your child go through such agony. He has sought out all the cures available, even approaching the common folk who follow Jesus—hoping for a cure by reputation.

He has come to the right place. Jesus has just exhibited a few signs of his own, and great figures from Jewish history have validated his identity. Right person, right place, right time...

Luke 9:28-45

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child.

28 About eight days after saying this, he climbed the mountain to pray, taking Peter, John, and James along. ²⁹ While he was in prayer, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became blinding white. ³⁰ At once two men were there talking with him. They turned out to be Moses and Elijah— ³¹ and what a glorious appearance they made! They talked over his exodus, the one Jesus was about to complete in Jerusalem.

32 Meanwhile, Peter and those with him were slumped over in sleep. When they came to, rubbing their eyes, they saw Jesus in his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ When Moses and Elijah had left, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He blurted this out without thinking.

34 While he was babbling on like this, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them. As they found themselves buried in the cloud, they became deeply aware of God. ³⁵ Then there was a voice out of the cloud: "This is my Son, the Chosen! Listen to him."

36 When the sound of the voice died away, they saw Jesus there alone. They were speechless. And they continued speechless, said not one thing to anyone during those days of what they had seen.

37 When they came down off the

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³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands." ⁴⁵ But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

The Message

mountain the next day, a big crowd was there to meet them. ³⁸ A man called from out of the crowd, "Please, please, Teacher, take a look at my son. He's my only child. ³⁹ Often a spirit seizes him. Suddenly he's screaming, thrown into convulsions, his mouth foaming. And then it beats him black and blue before it leaves. ⁴⁰ I asked your disciples to deliver him but they couldn't."

⁴¹ Jesus said, "What a generation! No sense of God! No focus to your lives! How many times do I have to go over these things? How much longer do I have to put up with this? Bring your son here."

⁴² While he was coming, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into convulsions. Jesus stepped in, ordered the vile spirit gone, healed the boy, and handed him back to his father. ⁴³ They all shook their heads in wonder, astonished at God's greatness, God's majestic greatness.

While they continued to stand around exclaiming over all the things he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ "Treasure and ponder each of these next words: The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into human hands."

⁴⁵ They didn't get what he was saying. It was like he was speaking a foreign language and they couldn't make heads or tails of it. But they were embarrassed to ask him what he meant.

Psalm 36:5-10

5 Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

10 O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

5 God's love is meteoric, his loyalty astronomic, · 6 His purpose titanic, his verdicts oceanic. · Yet in his largeness nothing gets lost; · Not a man, not a mouse, slips through the cracks.

7 How exquisite your love, O God! How eager we are to run under your wings, · 8 To eat our fill at the banquet you spread as you fill our tankards with Eden spring water.

9 You're a fountain of cascading light, and you open our eyes to light.

10 Keep on loving your friends; do your work in welcoming hearts.

The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God's work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.