

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD ~(14 February 2021)

2 Kings 2:1–12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?” And he said, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 Corinthians 3:12–13 (14–18); 4:1–6

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9:2–9

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Face of Jesus Christ Manifests the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God

It was “a hard thing” that Elisha asked, but by his persistence he was able to see the prophet Elijah being taken “by a whirlwind into heaven.” Although “chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them,” Elisha received Elijah’s cloak and a “double portion” of his spirit for preaching the Lord’s Word (2 Kings 2:9–11). It was a hard thing, too, for Israel to see Moses and come near to him, when “the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God” (Ex. 34:29–30). Therefore, after “he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai,” Moses “put a veil over his face” (Ex. 34:32–33). Only the Word of the Gospel lifts the veil, and “only through Christ is it taken away” (2 Cor. 3:14). Thus are we able to behold “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,” who is “the image of God” (2 Cor. 4:4–6). For the Law and the prophets are all fulfilled in Him. Therefore, “listen to him,” and fix your sights on “Jesus only” (Mark 9:7–8).

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -

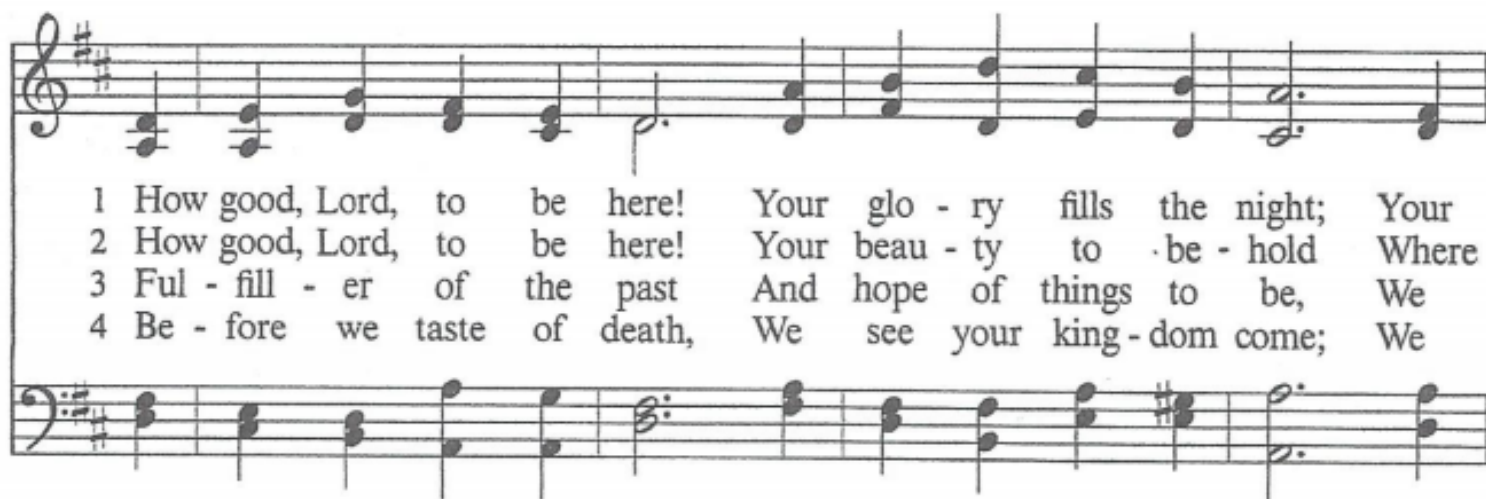
a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to his
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men Sound from his

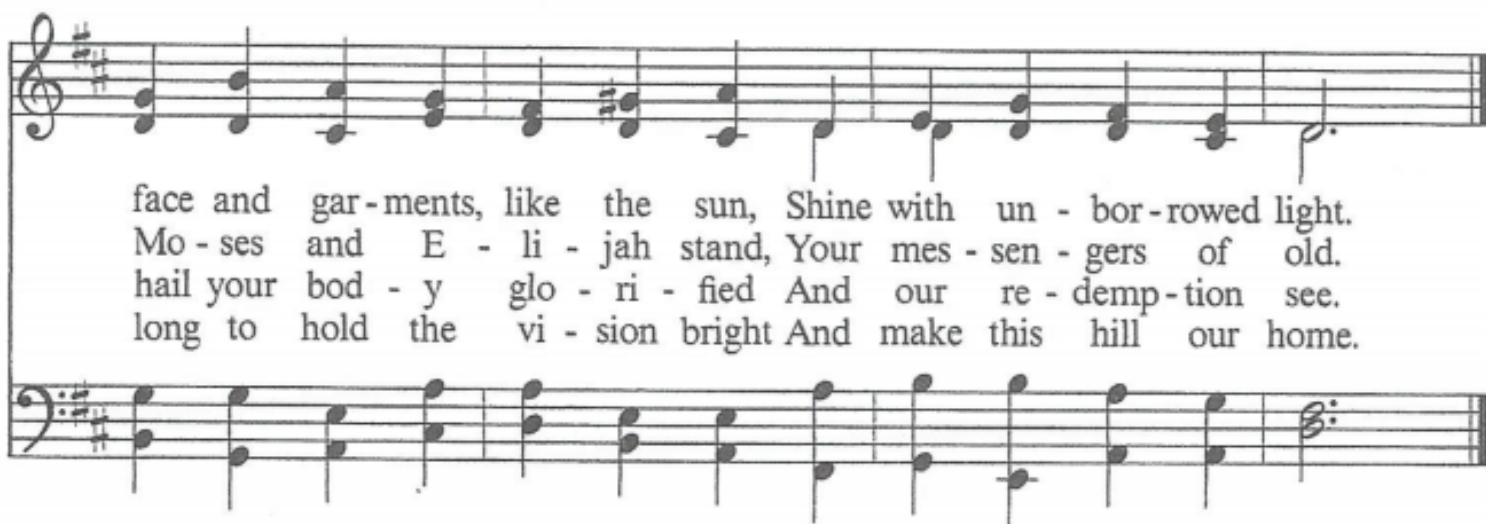
tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 might - y can do If with his love he be - friend you.
 peo - ple a - gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

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1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night; Your
2 How good, Lord, to be here! Your beau - ty to - be - hold Where
3 Ful - fill - er of the past And hope of things to be, We
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We see your king - dom come; We



face and gar - ments, like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, Your mes - sen - gers of old.
hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
long to hold the vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.

- 5 How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

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1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For your Gos - pel's
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us From our strug - gling

joy and peace; Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, Let no fear of death ap - pall us,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. Oh, re - fresh us;
 In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 Glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful To your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er Reign with you in end - less day.