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| **Glimpses of Glory**  *Promise: God will sustain us and be with us to the end of the age* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psa 50:1-6; 2 Cor 3:12-13; 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9 (Transfiguration of Our Lord), 2/11/24)  *And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.* – Mk 9:2b-3  **Lead In –** “Patience is a virtue, seldom found in women, and never in a man.” Indeed, patience is hard to come by. When it comes to waiting on the promises of God, this is especially true. It seems God’s timing is always at odds with our own. He moves slowly and this requires a lot of waiting, and this is all the more true when we endure hardship and suffering. Jesus points to the way of the Cross in this age. He also promises unbelievable bliss in the age to come. But for us, the dark night of suffering can seem endless. Thankfully, it is also like our Lord to sustain us with occasional glimpses and foretastes of glory to come…   1. **After Six Days Jesus Took with Him**    1. Peter had recently made the good confession…    2. Then Jesus foretells upcoming death and resurrection...    3. He then enjoined disciples to take up their cross… 2. **Three Were Given a Glimpse of Future Glory**    1. Jesus divine nature had otherwise been veiled…    2. Some of the key features of the *Epiphany*…    3. Notably, the conversation was of His departure… 3. **God Equips Us for Vocations in This Age**    1. Vocations are not for remaining on Mt. peaks…    2. Given the light of God’s Word and Sacraments…    3. The promise of His abiding presence.   **Final Word –** In our OT reading young Elisha caught a glimpse of God’s glory as his mentor was surrounded by chariots and horses of fire and was taken up by a whirlwind to heaven. And in our NT epistle reading we are reminded of the glow on Moses’ face after he had conversation with the Lord so that he veiled his face to keep this hidden from the people. Both Moses and Elijah endured many hardships and suffering as they fulfilled their vocations in this life. God knew how to fortify them with glimpses and foretastes of His glory. And He knows how to do this with us as well. In fact, such a foretaste is once again provided to us at the altar this morning. It is food for the journey.  **Mk 8:29** And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.”  **Mk 8:31** And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.  **Mk 8:34b** “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”  **Ph 2:6-8** Though [Jesus] was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.  **Mt 17:2** And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. | **Mark 9:2-9 ESV**  *The Transfiguration*  2And 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, 3and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. 4And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5And 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.” 6For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” 8And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.  9And 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.  **Lk 9:30-31** And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.  **Dt 5:12-14a** “Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work.”  **2Pe 1:18-19** We ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.  **Ps 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  **Ti 3:5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.  **Jn 6:35** “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”  **Mt 28:20b** “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” |