



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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Dear Friends,

“And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, He took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as He prayed, the fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistening. ³⁰ And, behold, there talked with Him two men, which were Moses and Elias: ³¹ Who appeared in glory, and spake of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² But Peter and they that were with Him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw His glory, and the two men that stood with Him. ³³ And it came to pass, as they departed from Him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While He thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. ³⁵ And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son: hear Him. ³⁶ And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.”

Luke 9:28-36

As the season of Epiphany draws to a close, the church historically celebrates the festival of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ. Since the season of Epiphany is focused on how God makes His Son Jesus known to the world, it is fitting that we would be directed to the Transfiguration story.

As Jesus is praying on the mountain, the disciples witness a dramatic change in His appearance. Not only does the clothing of Jesus appear dazzling white, but as Matthew records, “...His face did shine like the sun.” Amazingly, Jesus is talking with Moses and Elijah, two of the great heroes of the Old Testament. Peter is so stunned by what He sees, that he impulsively tells Jesus that they can build three tabernacles, one for each of these great prophets: Moses, Elijah and Christ, Himself. Peter, James and John become terrified when a cloud came and overshadowed them. The voice of God, the Father now makes the startling announcement “***This is My beloved Son: hear Him.***” As the disciples lift up their eyes, they only see Jesus. Moses and Elijah are gone. What does this all mean?

Of first significance is that the disciples have been given a glimpse of the glory of Christ in His transfigured appearance. Second is the presence of Moses and Elijah. Moses as the deliverer of the law, and Elijah as the representative of the great prophets of God. Their disappearance means that Jesus is now the One to whom we should listen as the greatest of the prophets. Christ has come to fulfill the law and the prophets. Most importantly, is the declaration of God the Father. Jesus is not merely a great prophet, *but His Son*; the Messiah who would come to save His people from their sins by way of the Cross. This is precisely what Moses, Elijah and Jesus were talking about on the mountain. Moses and Elijah “...***appeared in glory, and spake of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem.***” The great prophets are speaking about the single greatest event in human history; the death and Resurrection of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

The message of God the Father is just as much for us. God not only declares Jesus to be His Son, but that we should also listen to Him. “*In Christ alone, our hope is found*”, as the song writer has said. May God grant us ears to hear and hearts to believe the beautiful message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



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We would like to welcome Scott Seppala, our new full-time student this Spring semester. Scott was born and raised in Rindge, New Hampshire and moved his family to the Upper Peninsula to attend the seminary. His wife Illa and children Ella (11), Ephraim (9), Alden (8), Alex (6), Evan (4), Owen (3) and Orion (19 mo.) live in Houghton, Michigan.

Scott is a former business owner and partner of a small construction business called Tripod Construction that specialized in roofing and siding. In the past he has served as a lay minister, taught Sunday school, volunteered in prison ministry, and led a youth Bible Study.

He has a strong desire to study Theology and become more acquainted with the Christian Doctrine, thereby better equipped to teach and preach the Word of God effectively. Please keep Scott and his family in your prayers.



DEACONESS PROGRAM

We are also excited to announce that Lois Matson, our online student from Battle Ground, Washington is in her last semester of the Deaconess Program. She has been a part-time student since 2017 and will be graduating this spring. Please remember Lois and her family in your prayers as well.

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