

Transfiguration / February 15, 2026

2 Peter 1:17-19

"We were eye witnesses of His majesty... And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place."

We See Jesus' Glory in the Certain Prophetic Word

Before Jesus ascended and withdrew His visible presence from the Church, He told the disciples, *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Then as they were looking on, He was lifted up and taken out of their sight. They were no longer disciples. Now they were apostles, men trained, certified and sent by the Master to witness to Him as the God and Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe. They were to preach the gospel of salvation through faith in His name to all nations as witnesses of everything He had said and done beginning in Galilee up to and including His holy, innocent suffering and death and His glorious resurrection. Peter was blessed with James and John the sons of Zebedee, to witness not only Jesus' dying and rising, but also His transfiguration in which His divine glory, hidden beneath the mantle of His humanity, shone forth in bright light. He saw Moses and Elijah in conversation with Jesus. He heard the Divine Voice affirm Jesus' divinity and authority, saying, *"This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"*

Peter, James and John had an amazing experience, a theophany, a visible manifestation of God. Have you ever wished to have a visible manifestation of God? Job, in the midst of his sufferings, wished to have an audience with God and present his case that he suffered unjustly, and perhaps get an admission from God that he had been unfairly treated. Job got his audience, but far from vindicating himself in the presence of God he withdrew his complaint, saying, *"I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know...but now my eye sees you; therefore, I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."* The majesty of the Lord overwhelmed him. The majesty of the Lord overwhelmed Peter, James and John. Matthew says, when they heard the divine voice, *"they fell on their faces and were terrified."* They never forgot what they had seen and heard, but they didn't truly realize its meaning until they understood it after Jesus' resurrection, through the words of Moses and the Prophets. The transfiguration was a theophany. In the scriptures they had an epiphany. Before He ascended, Jesus

opened their minds to understand the scriptures and what was said about Him. We see Jesus' glory most clearly in the sacred scriptures. Through them the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see Jesus as Lord and opens our hearts to receive Him as our God and Saviour.

Transfiguration is the last Sunday of Epiphany. An epiphany is a manifestation of light. Symbolically it is to see something or someone in a different light. It is to see deeper than the surface and perceive something otherwise hidden. Epiphany as a season in the Church Year is seeing Jesus in the scriptures as the Christ, the son of God, the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe. Epiphany begins with the magi worshiping the child Jesus, His divinity hidden beneath the cloak of His humanity. Epiphany concludes with the disciples Peter, James and John, seeing Jesus' divinity break forth from beneath the veil of His humanity in bright light. St. Paul says, *"God dwells in unapproachable light."* When Moses departed from the Tent of Meeting where he met with God, his face radiated light. Moses asked to see the face of God. The Lord said, *"No human can see my face and live."* He showed Moses a glimpse of His glory and his face radiated such intense light that he needed to veil his face for the sake of the Israelites, whose eyes couldn't bear such bright light. In Jesus, God approaches us with the light of the knowledge of His love so that we may see Him in the face of Jesus. Epiphany is to see God in Christ Jesus. Epiphany is to see Jesus as our God and Saviour.

On the last Sunday of Epiphany Jesus reveals the glory He has with the Father from eternity. The Divine Voice affirms Him as the Christ, His beloved Son and instructs Peter, James, John and all believers to listen to Him. We listen to Jesus as our God and Saviour. He has the words of eternal life. He is the eternal word of life through whom all things were made, in whom all things have their being and by whom all things are held together. He is the glue of existence. He is the author of life and the author and perfecter of our faith. He made atonement for the sin of the world through His sinless life and sacrificial death, so that He would be the Saviour of all human beings. He sends His Holy Spirit into our hearts, so that through the hearing and receiving of His word, we may believe in Him as our Saviour and receive the benefits of His glory; forgiveness in time and life in eternity. Jesus doesn't reveal His glory to us as He did to Peter, James and John, who for a brief moment were dazzled by uncreated light. He reveals His glory to us daily through the word; written, spoken and heard; received with the water of Baptism and in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Peter, James and John had a singular experience of Jesus' glory for a brief moment. They carried the

remembrance of that theophany all their lives and witnessed to it with their testimony. But day in and day out for the rest of their lives like us, they had the witness of the prophetic word that makes all of us wise unto eternal life through faith in Jesus our Saviour. Listen to Him. He has the words of eternal life. He calls us to Himself as our God and Saviour.

Moses and Elijah stood with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. They were servants of the Lord as were Peter, James and John. Now they were part of the theophany. They along with Peter, James and John, are still part of the theophany. That theophany is the word of God. God reveals Himself in His word. Peter writes, *"No prophecy was ever produced by the human will, but men spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."* Peter, James and John had a special revelation, but it was through the words of Moses and the Prophets, that Peter, James and John came to understand what they saw on the Mount of Transfiguration. Their immediate reaction to the theophany was fear. They were just terrified. In the scriptures they saw what this meant, that Jesus is eternal Son of God, clothed in our humanity, sharing in all things human except for sin. In the light of the sacred scriptures, they saw that Moses and all the Prophets testified to Him and to the things He would suffer before entering into His glory. Testimony to Jesus is the spirit of prophecy, beginning with Moses, Elijah, leading up to John the Baptizer who said, *"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."* The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see the light of Christ in the light of the scriptures.

Testimony to Jesus is the heart of the Scriptures, which include the words of the Apostles, who declare that this man Jesus is indeed the Saviour of the world, especially of those who believe. The word was a light to their feet and a lamp for their path leading them to Jesus our God and Saviour. Their words are a light and a lamp leading us to Jesus. In the scriptures we see Jesus as our God and Saviour. With Peter, James and John we have an epiphany every time we take up the bible, read its words or hear it read. We discuss these words among ourselves and ponder them in our minds, because they reveal Jesus as our Saviour and God as our loving Father for His sake. It is significant that after recalling his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration, his theophany of Jesus' divine glory, that Peter says, *"We have something more certain, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns..."* We See Jesus' Glory in the Certain Prophetic Word.

John concluded his gospel saying, *"Now Jesus did many other things that are not written in this book, but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God that believing you may have life in His Name."* In the transfiguration Peter, James and John saw that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, so that believing they would have life in His name and also be His witnesses so we too may see and believe. They had a theophany, nevertheless Peter praises above all else the prophetic word as giving us the greatest certainty of the truth of our faith. Their epiphany was in the scriptures that clearly revealed Jesus as their Saviour, as the Saviour of all people, especially those who believe.

The words of Moses and the prophets, the words of the apostles and the Saviour Himself, are the bedrock upon which our faith is founded. Jesus said, *"My Word is truth."* Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. Through faith in Him we have access to the Father in peace. We will come into the Father's presence in peace, fully, body and soul, forever, in Christ's resurrection, when appears again in the fullness of His glory, face shining brighter than the sun, arms extended in love, His voice calling, *"Come to me."* Come to Him! God bless us with faith to answer His call. God bring us to that day and our share of the resurrection of Christ. In Jesus' Name. Amen.