

Lutheran Confessions

Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration VII. Lord's Supper, 43-45

43] For since our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, concerning whom, as our only Teacher, **this solemn command has been given from heaven to all men: *Hunc audite, Listen to Him, who is not a mere man or angel, neither true, wise, and mighty only, but the eternal Truth and Wisdom itself and Almighty God***, who knows very well what and how He is to speak, and who also can powerfully effect and execute everything that He speaks and promises, as He says Luke 21, 33: *Heaven and earth shalt pass away, but My words shall not pass away*; also Matt. 28, 18: *All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth,*—

44] Since, now, this true, almighty Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, after the Last Supper, when He is just beginning His bitter suffering and death for our sins, in those sad last moments, with great consideration and solemnity, in the institution of this most venerable Sacrament, which was to be used until the end of the world with great reverence and obedience [and humility], and was to be an abiding memorial of His bitter suffering and death and all His benefits, a sealing [and confirmation] of the New Testament, a consolation of all distressed hearts, and a firm bond of union of Christians with Christ, their Head, and with one another, in the ordaining and institution of the Holy Supper spoke these words concerning the bread which He blessed and gave [to His disciples]: *Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you*, and concerning the cup, or wine: *This is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins;*—

45] [Now, since this is so,] We are certainly in duty bound not to interpret and explain these words of the eternal, true, and almighty Son of God, our Lord, Creator, and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, differently, as allegorical, figurative, tropical expressions, according as it seems agreeable to our reason, **but with simple faith and due obedience to receive the words as they read, in their proper and plain sense**, and allow ourselves to be diverted therefrom [from this express testament of Christ] by no objections or human contradictions spun from human reason, however charming they may appear to reason.

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

O God, who in the glorious transfiguration of Your only begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the fathers and who, in the voice that came from the bright cloud, did in a wonderful manner foreshow the adoption of sons, mercifully make and keep us co-heirs with the King of His glory and bring us to the enjoyment of the same; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN** (*Collect for The Transfiguration of Our Lord*)

Word of God: St. Matthew 17:1-9 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

1. "Six days" after what? (See Matthew 16:13-28 and Mark) Why would Luke say "about eight days?" (See Jn 20:26 and Lk 24:1)
2. Who did Jesus take with him? (Dt 17:6, 2 Cor 13:1)
 - A. Peter - What answer had Peter just given to Jesus in 16:16, 22? - How does Peter later describe it? See 2 Peter 1:16-18
 - B. James – Brother of John, son of Zebedee, martyred in Acts 12:2
 - C. John - How does John describe it? See John 1:6-14
3. Why did Jesus take them up on a mountain?(Is 2:1-3, Ex 19:3-23, 2 Peter 1:18 "holy mountain,")
4. Did the disciples get to see Jesus' figure change?(Mt 17:2)
5. What about this "shining" of Jesus' body and clothes?
 - A. See Moses' face in Exodus 34:29-35 and 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
 - B. See John's vision in Revelation 1:13-15, 21:23
 - C. What about our bodies? (1 Corinthians 15:35-58)
6. What about this union of Jesus' two natures? Phil 2:7(use NKJV)
7. What about Moses and Elijah? Matthew 5:17
 - A. Moses, the great Torah(Law)-giver. His death Dt 34:5-8
 - B. Elijah the greatest Prophet. Taken to heaven 2 Ki 2:11-12
8. About what were Moses, Elijah and Jesus talking? (Lk 9:31)
9. Why does Peter speak of making tents? (Leviticus 23:33-43, Mark 9:6)
10. The cloud: a sign of God's presence (Ex 13:21-22, 19:9, 40:34-38, and 1 Ki 8:10-11). What does the voice from the cloud say? What words are added from at Jesus' baptism(Mt 3:17, Deut 18:15)?
11. Why do they fall on their faces terrified? (Gen 17:3, Mt 2:11, Lk 5:12, 17:6, Rev 1:17, 19:10) Why does Jesus touch them? (Dan 9:9-12, Isa 6:1-7) Why does Jesus say, "Rise, and have no fear." (See v.6, Ex 19:12)
12. They have to wait until Jesus' resurrection before they can speak of this. Why? (See Matthew 16:21-23, Acts 1:4-5, 8)

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn TLH #116, stanza 6
Confession, Questions Three
1 Corinthians 10:16(Lord's Supper)
1 Corinthians 15:49 (glory)
or 2 Corinthians 3:18 (glory)

7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses

"O Lord, open my lips..." p.224

+ Ascription of Praise

"Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia." p.225

Reading

St. Matthew 17:1-9 (back)

Hymn

"To The Name of Our Salvation"(Insert)

Catechesis on... (back)

St. Matthew 17:1-9

Liturgy

Catechism

--prayer based on reading

+ Responsive Prayer for Catechesis (insert)

Ten Commandments

Lord's Prayer

Apostles' Creed

Psalm 1

Collect of the Day

Prayers based on the text

The Collect for Peace

Benedicamus

Benediction

Catechesis on St. Matthew 17:1-9

¹ Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴ Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” ⁶ And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them and said, “**Arise, and do not be afraid.**” ⁸ When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹ Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “**Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.**” (NKJV)

The Man Jesus is Strengthened

Jesus’ human nature is strengthened (as in Mt 4:11) **by the conversation with Moses and Elijah about His upcoming suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension.**

Luke 9:30-31, “And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease (*exodus*) which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

The Apostles are Strengthened

In addition to the transfiguration, **the voice from heaven spoke at Jesus’ baptism** (Matthew 3:17). **John the Baptist says the voice confirmed for him Jesus’ Divinity.**

John 1:32-34, “And John bore witness, saying, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon

Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

The voice spoke again in St. John 12:27-33 in response to Jesus’ prayer, “Father, glorify your name.” The voice answered, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” Jesus remarks that **this voice was “for your sakes.”**

Believers are Strengthened

Jesus and the New Testament proclaim that the Old Testament prophets point forward to Jesus.

John 5:39, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”

Acts 10:43, “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

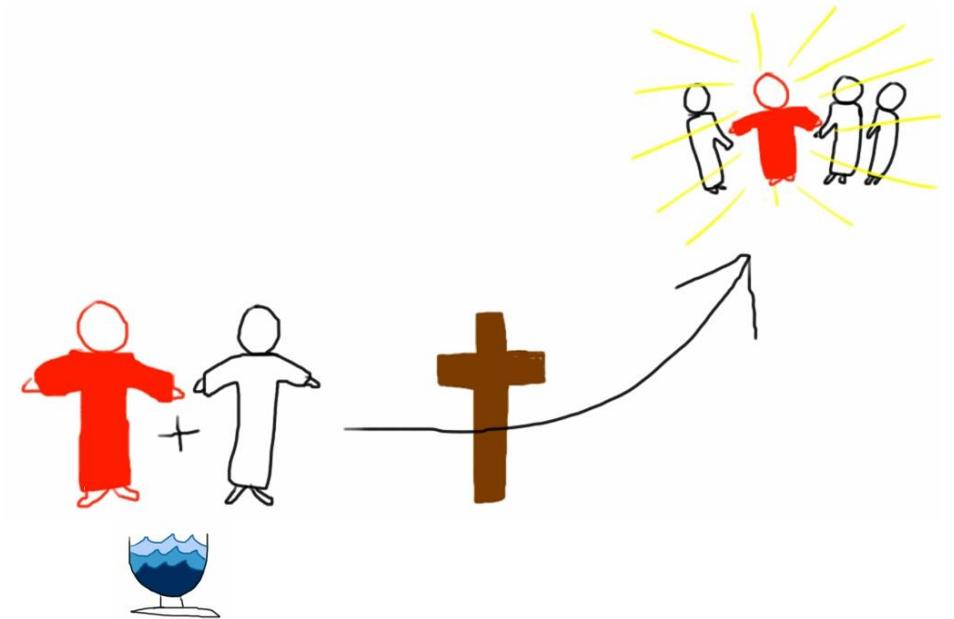
At the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah confirm that it is true. The voice of the heavenly Father directs our attention to the teaching of Jesus Christ (Mt 3:16-17, 17:5, Jn 12:28-32).

How does Jesus know these truths? John 3:13, “No one has ascended to heaven but **He who came down from heaven**, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.” **As True God, Jesus could simply speak for Himself without the need of witnesses.** “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for **I know where I came from and where I am going**; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going’” (Jn 8:14).

When St. Peter speaks of his own Apostolic authority to teach and preach, he cites their eyewitness account of Jesus’ transfiguration.

2 Peter 1:16-19, “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; (NKJV)

Catechesis On St. Matthew 17:1-9



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