**Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (ESV)**

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, **2** all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, **3**  the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. **4** And the Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” **5** So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, **6** and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. **7**  Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. **8** And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. **9** And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. **10** And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, **11** none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, **12** and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

**Hebrews 3:1-6 (ESV)**

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, **2** who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God’s house. **3** For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. **4** (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) **5**  Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, **6** but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

**Luke 9:28-36 (ESV)**

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. **29** And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. **30** And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, **31** who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. **32** Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. **33** And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”— not knowing what he said. **34** As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. **35** And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” **36** And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

“Vision vs. Victory Revealed”

* A vision easily deceives sinful human beings.
* Time of Moses Hebrew slaves cried out to see a god like the Egyptians.
* Time of Elijah the northern kingdom Israel made room for the false god of Baal.
* Time of Christ the Jews were looking for a messiah to shame the Gentiles.

**What visions mislead us today in the family, church, and country? Where are false pictures rising up to hide the God who saves sinners? How can we know the truth if there are as many views about life as there is people?**

* The transfiguration is not a vision by God but the victory revealed.
* Proves Jesus’ promise to the baptized, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:20)
* Uncovers the truth as St. Paul says, “Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
* Gives hope to enter into the season of Lent to face the darkness with the light of Christ.

Three figures at the transfiguration bear witness to the victory revealed by God. “Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”— not knowing what he said.”

**Moses led with the authority of God giving His Word at Mount Sinai.**

* “When I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that the Lord made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. 10 And the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words that the Lord had spoken with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. 11 And at the end of forty days and forty nights the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. 12 Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you have brought from Egypt have acted corruptly. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them; they have made themselves a metal image.” Deuteronomy 9:9-12 (ESV)
* The Law is a consuming fire of God unforgiving to sinners. The authority of God holds out the truth without compromise.
* “Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:19-20
* Even the Law put Moses in his place being unable to enter the Promised Land because of his sin against the Word.

**Elijah wheeled the power of God upon Mount Carmel.**

* “And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.” 40 And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.” And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.” 1 Kings 18:36-40
* The power of God is a glory unmatched by any false gods of man.
* “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)
* Even the mighty Elijah did not have the strength of deliverance always living in fear of death.

**What does Christ bring to the table? Is the transfiguration just icing on the cake?**

Jesus is God who faithfully out of love steps down from the mountain to be Savior.

* This is the faithfulness of God that allowed Moses to look upon the Promised Land. It is the faithfulness that allowed Elijah not to see death to take him away in chariots of fire.
* Jesus has all authority for He is the Son of the Father. He fulfills the Law without question or compromise as the perfect man.
* Jesus has all power for He is the Chose One. He acts with one miracle after another from healing to having his way with creation.
* Yet, rising above Moses and Elijah means Jesus brings the greatest treasure His faithfulness as Savior.
* The Father commands “Listen to him!” Lent takes us into the darkness of Judgment by the Law. Jesus has authority to forgive sinners by what He speaks from the cross.
* No glory or power is greater than for God to give His faithfulness as power over death. Jesus points out in the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus. “But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’ ”Luke 16:29-31 (ESV)
* St. Paul says, “The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim 2:11-13)
* This is the treasure of faithfulness hidden in the Lord’s Supper given on the night when He was betrayed. It is love revealed against the Devil as a feast of victory.

Whatever the visions, the victory revealed in Jesus stands out. Before the transfiguration the Lord said, ““If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:23-27 (ESV) Such authority and power stand before us by the Word and Sacrament to strength, uplifts, and deliver us from our season of Lent to celebrate an eternal Easter with the Lord. Amen.