

Lectionary Gospel Commentaries

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Based on the Lectionary Pericope Covering:

Mark 9:2-9

SOLA-LSB (Lutheran Service Book):
RCL (Revised Common Lectionary):

Year B - Transfiguration Sunday, Text: Mark 9:2-9
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At the center-point of Mark's Gospel, there comes the day when Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. When they reach its summit, Jesus is transfigured before them and His clothes become dazzling white (v. 2-3).

Verses 9:4-6: Moses and Elijah (symbolically representing the Law and the Prophets) appear and engage in conversation with Jesus. Peter offers to build a dwelling for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Peter's suggestion reflects wilderness events and personalities.

Verses 9:7-8: A cloud then overshadows the group and a voice declares, "This is My Son, the Beloved; listen to Him." The experience and vision then come to an end — and the disciples see only Jesus. What is the message of the voice from the cloud?

The statement, "This is My Son, the Beloved" reflects Psalm 2:7 — a coronation Psalm used when a descendant of David was anointed into office as king. (David means beloved.) Its message in the transfiguration event is: "You are getting your kings back. The Davidic line is being restored," but in a very different way from what you have been expecting!

The words "Listen to Him!" reflect Deuteronomy 18:15 — a verse that states that God will eventually provide His people with a new prophet, a new Moses, to whom they must listen. Jesus is that new prophet, but He will share with His people guidelines for a way of life radically different from that which they have been observing.

In Matthew's transfiguration narrative (17:1-8), the voice from the cloud refers to Jesus as King, Servant, and a New Moses (Psalm 2:7, Isaiah 42:1, Deuteronomy 18:15).

In Luke's transfiguration narrative (9:28-36), Moses and Elijah speak with Jesus about His coming "exodus" (not "departure") that He will "complete" (not "accomplish") in Jerusalem. Jesus' entire ministry is

understood as a rescue mission that He will complete in His crucifixion (coronation) that His Father will endorse by raising His Son from the dead (vindication).

Verse 9:9: The disciples did not even begin to understand the message of the voice from the cloud until after Jesus' resurrection. However, a Roman centurion who stood at the foot of Jesus' cross declared, "Truly this man was God's Son!" (Mark 15:39).

