

Matthew 17:1-9

Grace, peace, and mercy from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

When our children are born, we wonder what their future will be. What school will be like, what skills and talent they have, what could be their life's work.

When we bring them for baptism. Through the year they are brought to God's house, the scripture is placed in their hands, they are taught the love of God in His mighty acts in the stories of the Bible. They learn to pray, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith they were baptized into. They then stand before the church and take this faith for their own in confirmation

When they grow up and graduate from High School, what will be the direction of their lives? Will their skill and talents be developed and learn God's calling for their lives?

When they go off to college we wonder if they will withstand the secular teachings and be able to withstand the pressures to go along with the crowd and ways of the world.

When finding someone and marrying, will Christ be affirmed in their life together in Christ be part of their life together. Or will the pressures and strains cause them to split?

As our children pass through these various milestones of life and faith a picture of the shape begins to form. But still there remains a bit of the unknown, the changes and chances of life. Sickness, disease, downturn in the economy, job loss, and tragedies.

For disciples Peter, James, and John they had heard about Jesus' future six days earlier after Peter had confessed that Jesus is the Messiah, Son of the Living God. Jesus had told them when they go up to Jerusalem the Son of Man will be handed over to the religious officials, suffer many things at their hands, and finally be killed, and after three days be raised from the dead.

Peter did not like that future for "The Son of The God," for the Messiah. And Jesus rebuked him sternly, calling him Satan, because he was thinking in the ways of man, not in the ways of God. Then Jesus laid out a future for His disciples that included picking up their cross, and following Jesus, and even giving one's own life for the sake of Jesus and the gospel.

Now it is three days later and Jesus and Peter, James, and John are on top of the mountain where Jesus is Transfigured and speaking with two of Israel's faith heroes, Moses and Elijah. Jesus stands before them on top in His resurrected heavenly glory which he will assume after following His death, resurrection, and ascension.

To Peter's eyes and mind this is more of the future he had in mind for Jesus. It is the present future that Peter would like to see. But the cloud covers the mountain and the voice from Heaven speaks and affirms Jesus with the same affirmation He received at His baptism, "This my Son, the beloved, listen to Him." The cloud lifts and it is over and it is just Jesus with Peter, James, and John. Jesus touches them and they get up and go down the mountain into the valley where people live, often facing worries, experiencing the changes and chances of life. For the next mountain Jesus will go up on is Mountain Calvary where He will be betrayed, suffer many things, be crucified, and raised from the Dead all for our forgiveness, so we may live in a relationship with Him.

This relationship began with our baptisms where the old sinful person was drowned in a death like Jesus and just as Jesus rose from the dead, we too came out of those baptismal waters a new person with the sure and certain hope we too we be raised in a resurrection like Jesus.

In Jesus, Our Future is Certain. In just a few minutes Addy and Lucas will be baptized into this life of faith. With the baptized faith we return to this church to Listen to Our Lord, as the church teaches and proclaims this love of God in Christ Jesus. In the changes and changes and chances of life that visit our door we can be assured that our Lord is present. Why? Because He promised His presence. "Lo, I am with you to the end of the age." No matter what we go through in life we can be assured of our future.

The Holy Scripture we heard today gives us a glimpse of this future. In Christ we get to share in this glorified life with our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

No matter what falls upon us, may this give us the peace of God that passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.