

**February 23, 2020 Transfiguration Sunday**  
**Rev. Jen Nagel, University Lutheran Church of Hope**

**Exodus 24:12-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21**  
**Matthew 17:1-9**

**Grace and peace to you, beloved ones, grace and peace.**

**Today is Transfiguration Sunday.**

We are at the end of the season after Epiphany,  
the season of revelation,  
the season of God being made known to us.

Today is, if you will, the “big reveal.”

**This morning I invite you to engage the gospel** by wondering and noticing what you hear in the scripture.

Today we all become preachers, sharing an “I wonder, I notice” sermon.

Some of you have experienced this before; for others, it’s new.

**You’ve heard me read the Gospel once already.**

In a few minutes I’ll read it again, slowly.

Your job is to interrupt me—and I mean it.

Interrupt using a phrase that begins either “I wonder... (whatever you wonder)” or “I notice...”

[I’ll repeat what you say so that it’s amplified and all can hear it better.]

After that, another person may jump in with something they wonder or notice,  
or I’ll continue until I’m interrupted again.

**So today it may sound like this at the beginning,**

**“Six days later...”**

I wonder what happened six days before.

I wonder why that is important.

Or, I notice that time is passing.

**Remember, only two rules...**

**1. There are no wrong answers, let the Spirit lead us.**

You may feel like you don’t know enough, but really those can be the best interruptions.

Your job is to interrupt... It only works if you do.

**2. Use the structure. Begin your interruption with I wonder... or I notice...**

**Ready? Are your voices ready? My name is Jen; what’s your name?**

**Thank you!**

I've had the benefit of digging into the scripture more deeply prior to this morning.

**I noticed that the chapter right before this is important.**

In the chapter 16, Jesus asks the disciples: "Who do you say that I am?"

It's there that Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah,

**and** it's just verses later where Peter tries to block Jesus from going to the cross.

That's what happens six days before this mountaintop moment.

On the mountaintop, Jesus is able to hold onto that combination of

glory and the cross,

suffering and promises.

This week as we move into Lent, hold that very same tension.

These aren't at odds for Jesus—this is where Jesus finds his power.

**Then, I notice how it says the disciples were overcome with fear.**

How he tells them, Do not be afraid... and then how Jesus, it says, touches them.

I wonder why I never noticed before that touch of Jesus.

How much touch matters!

**Finally,**

**I noticed the pull between remaining on the mountain and returning to the valley.**

I know how vital and rare these mountaintop moments can be.

They often carry us for years, perhaps a lifetime.

I also know how important it is to experience Jesus in the mundane regularity of the valley:

In everyday routines and rhythms,

In the comfort and promise of another human being at our side whispering, "Don't be afraid."

I know how important it is to feel God, to experience grace and love, in the touch of a friend,

In the brilliant sunlight that reminds us that spring will come,

In the needs of our world, and the hope, the trust, that with God and we will find a way.

**Thank you, preachers!**

May this mountaintop revelation go with you into Lent.

And, let the people say, Amen.