



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

People Of Christ With The Message Of Hope

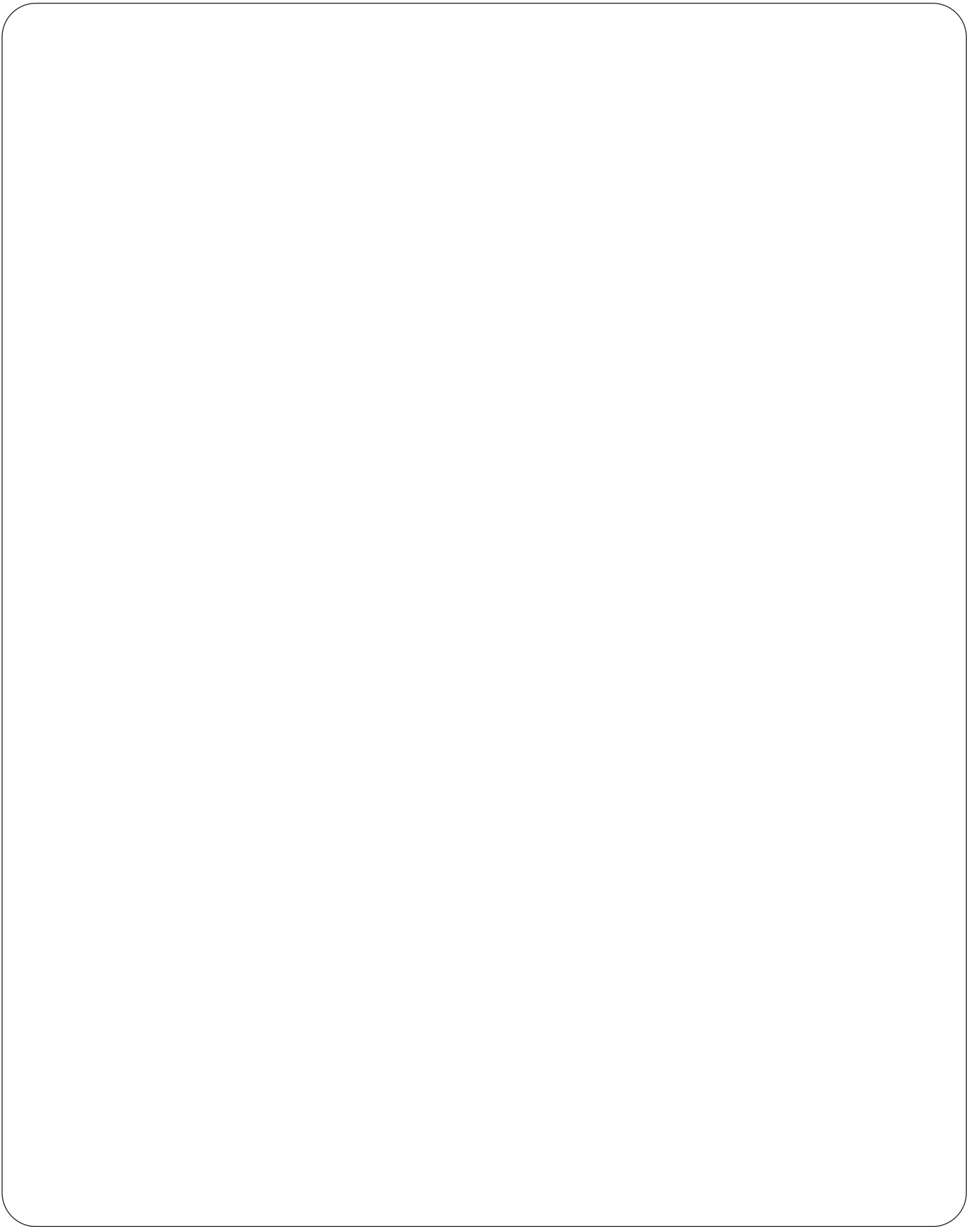


From the Mount of
TRANSFIGURATION
to MOUNT
CALVARY

A Lenten Journey



Lent Devotions 2010



Brought to you in partnership with Lutheran Hour Ministries

A Journey To Begin

Matthew 16:21 - From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the Law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Life was good for the disciples. Their teacher was popular. Huge crowds had come to hear Him speak. Many had been touched by His miracles. As Jesus and His disciples gathered together at Caesarea Philippi, Peter, on their behalf, made a great confession: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16b) for which he had been commended. Thinking that Jesus’ Kingdom was of this world, each of them aspired to be the one seated at His right hand or His left. Life was good.

But Jesus knew differently. He told them so. There was a journey to be made. It would start in six days. It would begin on a high mountain not far from Nazareth, the place where He had grown up. It would end on a little hill near Jerusalem called Mount Calvary. It would make all the difference in the world!

It was difficult for the disciples to imagine life much better than it was. Jesus knew that life would be so much better when His journey was complete, when the weight of their sins was finally lifted from their lives, when the evil one would lie crushed at His feet, when the sting of death was torn away. That could only happen when they journeyed to Jerusalem, when He died and rose again.

We will join Jesus and His disciples on this journey from the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary. To the disciples, life will seem to have gone mad. It may also seem that way to us. It will certainly be difficult for Jesus.

But in the end, for the disciples, and for us, life will be good—so very good. It is good because of our Lord’s journey from the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary. You are invited to join us.

THE PRAYER: Bless our Lenten journey, Lord, as we move forward with You from the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary. Amen.

The Mountain Of Transfiguration

Matthew 17:2a - "There He was transfigured before them. ..."

Our journey to Jerusalem begins with a "Transfiguration." It is an important beginning for a most significant journey. Jesus has with Him his inner circle of disciples: Peter, James and John. St. Luke in his ninth chapter describes the scene. "As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about His departure, which He was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:29-31).

What a way to begin the journey. Jesus was beginning the journey in conversation with Moses and Elijah, both of whom knew a great deal about significant journeys. Moses had led the Children of Israel out of bondage to the edge of the Promised Land. He was followed by Joshua who brought them into their new home. Elijah, a leader of the prophets, was followed by Elisha, whose name is a form of Joshua. Now Jesus, whose Hebrew name is Joshua, would lead the way for all people into the eternal Promised Land. He would complete the work of Moses and Elijah. This most difficult of journeys began in intimate conversation with those whose journeys were so significant for the people of God.

As we begin our Lenten journey, we, too, will do well to spend a little time in the company of Moses and Elijah. Reread the first part of the Book of Exodus and the early chapters of 1 Kings. Be refreshed in the courage of these men and in their faithfulness to our great God. Understand how significant this would be to Jesus. Understand how significant this conversation is for us as we begin our journey from the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary.

THE PRAYER: As Jesus was blessed by the conversation with Moses and Elijah, so bless our conversation with those who have journeyed before us. Amen.

With *From The Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary – A Lenten Journey*, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor and Chaplain Vern Gundermann continues his approach of using the theme of journeying to communicate the message of God's long-delivered promise of salvation coming to fulfillment through the work of His Son's earthly ministry.

Jesus' days in this world were indeed one of passage, a journey with a definite and bitter end in mind. What Gundermann did in his 2009 Advent devotions—*From Nazareth to Bethlehem – An Advent Journey*, shadowing Joseph and Mary in their movements between Nazareth and the birthplace of the Savior, Bethlehem—he continues here. This time it's the Savior Himself who is on the move in the lives of the men and women He encounters.

Mount Calvary, no doubt, was in Jesus' mind long before He ever ascended that dreaded hillock bearing the cross and the unfathomable weight of our sin. But it wasn't as a hopeless and condemned man that He made that journey. It was as the only begotten Son of God, who alone could—and did—take away the sins of the world.



LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES

People Of Christ With The Message Of Hope

660 Mason Ridge Center Drive
St. Louis, MO 63141-8557
1-800-876-9880

www.lhm.org • www.lentendevotions.net