

It's the little ways we serve our Lord and our neighbor, which to most go unnoticed that make the most difference. Your greeting to a new face may be the reason they come back again. Your setting of the Lord's Table ensures we all get to receive the body and blood of Jesus each week.

A day in Your courts, O Lord, is better than a thousand elsewhere. Being in church grooms us for eternity. It readies us to receive our Savior in our final hour. When Peter offered to build three tents, **“one for [Jesus], one for Moses, and one for Elijah” (Mt 3:4)** at Jesus' Transfiguration, it was because he understood how awesome that moment was. He was responding in faith. Now, to be sure, his faith was misguided. Peter didn't realize that Jesus needed yet to die, which is what those three men were discussing on that mountain. Luke tells us this in his account of the Transfiguration (**Lk 9:30**).

Peter's offer, though, was proportional to what was happening. Moses and Elijah and Jesus were talking. Who wouldn't want this to keep on going? It's just like when you get together with good friends and you don't want the night to end. How many times have you thought or said something like, “Oh, I just wish we could stay all night” or “If we just had a bigger house, you all could just stay over!” Human experience teaches us that Peter's desire to have those Old Testament icons and Jesus hang around a while is exactly what we do in moments we don't want to end.

Yet it wasn't quite the right time. Jesus still needed to die. He still needed to accomplish what His Father had sent Him to do in Jerusalem on that old rugged cross. For us today, Jesus has already died – more – He has risen. And yet it isn't quite time for us to celebrate in fullness either. We are still waiting for Christ to return. We are still waiting for Christ to raise the dead; our loved ones that we miss so much.

Unlike Peter who offered to build three tents, when Christ returns He will be the one to raise the tents of all the dead bodies in the grave to new life, and unite them with their souls. Though split apart in death, body and soul will be gloriously united in eternal life. In that hour we will understand in full why the Psalmist could say that one day in the courts of the Lord's house are better than a thousand anywhere else. More than simply understanding in full, we will believe it in full.

Until then, we continue to come to the Lord's House where He leads us to repentance and increases our faith to trust not only the words of Psalm 84, but all of God's Word. In spite of being an eye witness of the Transfiguration and hearing the **“voice borne from heaven” (2 Pet 1:18)** saying, **“This is my beloved Son... listen to Him” (Mt 17:5)**, Peter writes in our Epistle how it is that you and I can listen to Christ. He writes, **“And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (2 Pet 1:19)**.

The day is dawning, brothers and sisters, when Christ will return for the final time. You have something more sure than being an eye witness to anything Christ did in His earthly life. You have God's Word. You have the Scripture. It is the source of your life and salvation. Listen to Him by listening to it. Trust it, and know that as Christ was transfigured before His disciples and later raised from the dead, the same transformation will happen to you on the Last Day. **“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. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality” (1 Cor 15:51-53)**.

Jesus' Transfiguration foreshadows ours. It is good, Lord, to be here today, Wednesday, next week, etc., until You come again. Our time together here is better than a thousand days anywhere else. Lord, grant us the faith to believe that. In Jesus' name, Amen.