



# Risen Savior Lutheran Church

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When God is at work, oftentimes the best activity for you to do is - nothing. Sometimes God wants us to be silent. Think of Peter, atop the mt. of trans. He, James, John witness a once-in-human-history event. Jesus's clothes became radiant, white as light. His face shone like the sun. Out of nowhere Moses, Elijah appear. They talk with Jesus. If there was ever a time to be silent, this was it. Soak all it in, absorb every detail, memorize every word. Become nothing but eyes to see, ears to hear.

Moses, Elijah spoke to Jesus about the most important thing ever in the world. What did Peter, James, and John overhear then discuss? Talking about the only thing that truly matters. Luke tells us, **They were talking with Jesus about his departure**, the Greek there “exodus” **which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.** Exodus –what a loaded word. Who better to talk about “exodus” than Moses?

Moses led Israel’s exodus from slavery to freedom, the fulfilling God’s promise to their homeland. The first exodus with slaughtered lamb. Bloody doorposts. A holy meal. Death passed over. God’s people delivered through water. Then the holy mountain and Lord’s cloud. The same cloud that dwelled with them in the tabernacle.

It’s no coincidence that the Lord’s great saving act event of the OT is at the center of this mt. of transfiguration -as this new exodus is unfolding. The fulfillment of the Old. Our Lord’s passion set to begin, His exodus from this world, the laying down of His life in perfect love,

For in the greater exodus, your exodus, you are rescued from slavery of sin to freedom, the fulfilling of God’s promise to you for your true home. For the slaughtered lamb was slain, lives, who blood marks the doorpost of your soul. Death passes over. We too are delivered through greater waters. We too eat a greater holy meal.

And nothing is more holy, nothing is more essential to who God is, than God in the Flesh lifted up from the earth on Hellish tree in order to

draw all people unto Himself. That's what they sang about in Bethlehem. It's what all of creation, had waited. Moses, Elijah preached the Christ; every page of the OT about Christ.

In the midst of this glorious scene, what does Peter do? Starts jabbering. Luke writes **he didn't realize what he was saying.** Really, Peter, you want to build tents? Turn your back on this phenomenal epiphany to hunt down branches? You want to do something besides sit there and drink in every word? You want to interrupt the conversation with Jesus, Moses, Elijah to tell them what you'd like to do? It is indeed good for you to be here. So just be there. Silent.

We feel compelled to speak. You sense this urgency to act. We're talkers, doers. It gives us a sense of involvement, of importance, of control. Yet, how often we get into trouble when we don't curb our tongue.

And to be sure there many times you must speak, act; not shy away from your Christian duty. And shame on us when we worry too much about people's opinion of you, too conscientious, fear other's people thoughts more than you fear God, that we don't speak up. But unto God, learn to be silent, silent your inner thoughts, just sit there, watch, listen, receive; the perfect position for God to do His acting, speaking and giving.

Of course, we have a time, a place for respond to the words of God. Our amens, alleluias. Sing our songs, say our prayers and creeds. But the most important times is when we are all ears, all eyes. When we, like open-mouthed baby birds, receive from our Lord the food and drink of grace. Our ears filled with the forgiving, comforting grace of Jesus. When we stare open-eyed at the greatest, perfect picture of love in the extended arms of what He accomplished in Jerusalem.

When Jesus was at the home of Lazarus with friends Mary, Martha. Martha's busy serving Jesus and His disciple. Mary, sits quietly to listen at Jesus feet. Jesus commends Mary for doing the greater. Greater to just sit there. Be silent. Learn. Receive. Listen.

God strengthened the disciples for the journey ahead, giving them a glimpse of His glory. Didn't keep them from their failures from time to time. Nor did it take away all of their troubles. But neither did their stumbling keep God from loving and forgiving. God intervened. **Listen to**

**Him!** And rejoice in the company of Moses, Elijah, Peter, and the whole cloud of witnesses already at rest. On that mt. you see your future. Soon, you shall stand with them. Your body transfigured.

**His exodus which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.** He knows what He must do. What He will soon endure. This is why He came. It is worth it to Him. Because you are worth it to Him. He journeys to the cross to have you. That you bask in His forgiveness and gifts, until a day when you will stand next to the Lord surrounded by those in the faith who have gone before you. Until then...Become nothing of yourself but eyes to see, ears to hear His mighty works in you. Let all mortal flesh keep silent. **Listen to Him.** God does His work. And we, sponge-like, absorb His life, His love in Words, Sacraments. Beautiful moments, for they reveal what kind of God you have: whose glory revealed in giving, whose power shown in mercy, whose greatness is demonstrated in humbleness toward you. God is never more God than when He gives. You are never more His child than when you are silent, listen, and receive.