

Mountain top experiences prepare us for the valleys of every day life.

Mountain Peaks are some of the most beautiful scenes you can imagine. Have you ever taken a vacation in the mountains?

Why do you think people enjoy vacationing in the mountains? There are several reasons. One reason is that they want to get away from the heat. It is refreshing to go up into the mountains where the air is cool. Another reason is to enjoy the beautiful view. When you are down in the valley, it is often difficult to see and appreciate the beauty around you, but from the mountain top, you can clearly see the beauty of the world below. Many people enjoy vacationing in the mountains to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It is good to get away from the pressure of work and busy schedules, and just sit back and relax. When we are enjoying a get away in the mountains, we sometimes find it hard to go back to our day to day life.

Did you know that Jesus enjoyed going to the top of a mountain for quiet and time for reflection and prayer. retreat? The Bible tells us that one day Jesus took Peter, James and John high up into the mountains so that they could be alone. While on the mountain top, Jesus' appearance changed. His clothes became a dazzling white, whiter than any bleach could get them. Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking to Jesus. Peter exclaimed, "Teacher, it is wonderful for us to be here! Let's build three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Then a cloud passed over and covered them. From the cloud came a voice saying, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to what he says!" Then when they looked again, they saw only Jesus.

Peter, James, and John would probably have been happy to stay up there on the mountain top. But Jesus knew that the purpose of their experience on the mountain was to renew their strength for the difficult days that were ahead of them, so they went back down from the mountains into the valley.

Sometimes we all need a vacation in the mountains to help us cope with the heat and stress of our every day life. We need mountain top experiences in our daily walk with Jesus. We need those experiences to renew our strength for the difficult tasks that we face as we follow Jesus each day.

Dear Father, we are thankful for the wonderful mountain top experiences you give us to renew our strength for our daily walk with you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



The Anglican Parish of Bright
Transfiguration Sunday - Last before Lent
February 11, 2018

St Paul's - Morning Prayer (BAS)

A Great Prophet has arisen among us! God
has visited his people! *Luke 7:16*



Songs of Praise - 220, 207, 426

Opening Hymn - O Worship the King 350

The Lord, our God has spoken; he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. ***Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory.***

The Lord is king; he is enthroned upon the cherubim. ***The Lord is great in Zion; he is high above all peoples.***

Let me announce the decree of the Lord: "I myself have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. ***"You are my son; this day have I begotten you."***

Let them confess his name, which is great and awesome. ***Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool.***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: ***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

God rules over all the earth: ***O come let us worship.***

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God, and I long for you. My whole being desires you; like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for you.

Let me see you in the sanctuary; let me see how mighty and glorious you are.

***Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you.
I will give you thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer.
My soul will feast and be satisfied, and I will sing glad songs of praise to you.
As I lie in bed, I remember you; all night long I think of you, because you have always been my help. In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
I cling to you, and your hand keeps me safe.***
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: ***as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.***

A Reading from 2 Kings (2:1, 6-12)

The time came for the Lord to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elijah and Elisha set out from Gilgal. Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Now stay here; the Lord has ordered me to go to the Jordan River." But Elisha answered, "I swear by my loyalty to the living Lord and to you that I will not leave you." So they went on, and fifty of the prophets followed them to the Jordan. Elijah and Elisha stopped by the river, and the fifty prophets stood a short distance away. Then Elijah took off his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the water with it; the water divided, and he and Elisha crossed to the other side on dry ground. There, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what you want me to do for you before I am taken away." "Let me receive the share of your power that will make me your successor," Elisha answered. "That is a difficult request to grant," Elijah replied. "But you will receive it if you see me as I am being taken away from you; if you don't see me, you won't receive it." They kept talking as they walked on; then suddenly a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire came between them, and Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind. Elisha saw it and cried out to Elijah, "My father, my father! Mighty defender of Israel! You are gone!" And he never saw Elijah again. In grief Elisha tore his cloak in two.

The Word of the Lord

People: ***Thanks be to God***

Psalm 50:1-6

The God of gods, the Lord, speaks. He calls the earth from the rising to the setting sun.

God shines from Jerusalem, whose beauty is perfect.

Our God comes, and he will not be silent. A fire burns in front of him, and a storm surrounds him.

He calls to the sky and to the earth to see him judge his people.

He says, "You who worship me, gather around. You have made an agreement with me, using a sacrifice."

God is the judge. Even the skies say he is right.

Blessed are you, God of glory; you call us to give up all our vain attempts to reach you, and to come before you in thanksgiving for your great salvation, shown to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from 2nd Corinthians (4:3-6)

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

People: ***Thanks be to God***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (9:2-9)

People: ***Glory be to thee, O Lord***

Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain, where they were alone. As they looked on, a change came over Jesus, and his clothes became shining white—whiter than anyone in the world could wash them. Then the three disciples saw Elijah and Moses talking with Jesus. Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, "Teacher, how good it is that we are here! We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He and the others were so frightened that he did not know what to say. Then a cloud appeared and covered them with its shadow, and a voice came from the cloud, "This is my own dear Son—listen to him!" They took a quick look around but did not see anyone else; only Jesus was with them. As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has risen from death."

The Gospel of Christ

People: ***Praise be to thee, O Christ***

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed - I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory - We Have Come At Christ's Own Bidding

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