The Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 9, 2025
Text: 2 Peter 1:16-21
Theme: We Are Eyewitnesses of the Miraculous

What is a miracle? The dictionary says that a miracle is,

"An event that appears inexplicable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God."

In the epistle today, Peter tells us of the miracle he witnessed. Jesus took him, James, and John to the mountain where Jesus was transfigured before their eyes. That is to say that the veil that covered his Godly glory was lowered for a moment. So, they saw Jesus in His glory, and not only that, but they heard the voice of God from the sky.

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Peter is not passing along something someone else saw or heard. He is telling us as an eyewitness what he saw on that mountain. He witnessed a miracle that day. This was a miracle that topped all the healings and even the raising of Lazarus from the dead. As Peter wrote his letter to us some 35 years after his trip to the mountain top with Jesus, this was the event that seemed to have most impacted him. I would imagine so. How often does one hear the very voice of God confirming what you think you saw?

But Peter does not stop there. He wants us to know that not only did he witness a miracle, but we do too. Peter says,

"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, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." It is easy to become jaded in our faith. When that happens, we begin to treat miracles as something expected, the norm, every day occurrences. Maybe we moan when there is a baptism, a long reading, or a long hymn because that means the worship service will go 10 minutes longer. Maybe we peruse our phones or whisper with on another during the Lord's Supper because we're bored while the very body and blood of Jesus Christ himself is being given to the faithful. Maybe we skip worship all together because we have something that seems more important to do like work, or practice or even sleep. Peter tells us,

"…we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure…" More sure. More sure than witnessing the transfiguration? Yes, because the Word of God, "the prophetic

word," is not an event but a living thing that inhabits us and grows within us. We will do well to pay attention to it because that Word is a lamp shining in a dark place and if this world is not a dark place, I don't know what is. We could spend hours rattling off all the dark things that have happened in our world in the past year. Peter reminds us that every time we hear the Word of God, whether that is reading our Bible, listening in worship, or singing hymns, we are just like James, John, and him. We are hearing the very words of the Father in Heaven. That is exciting!

Worship is designed like a conversation with God. We sing to Him. He speaks to us. We pray to Him. He responds with His own body and blood to empower us to overcome that for which we prayed. He speaks His benediction upon us and we finish by singing to Him again. It is a miracle every time we worship. Sometimes we forget that. Peter says,

"…that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." He reminds us that Scripture is the very Word of God, not some storybook devised by human beings. While it contains history, it is not primarily history. While it contains science and math it is not primarily for science and math. The purpose of Scripture is

for God to speak to us. It is without error. It is Holy. And it is true. It was indeed written by men like Peter, but it was the Holy Spirit speaking through those men not the men themselves. "No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." That is why I encourage you to read your Bible every day. Even if you only read a verse or two, read it because God wants to speak to you.

It is a miracle. God has come to us in Jesus Christ to die on the cross to pay for all our sins. He revealed Himself to normal human beings as the very Son of God. And the Holy Spirit used those human beings to record it all in the Bible so that we could know and remember that we are invited to experience the miraculous every time we read that book, witness a baptism, receive the body and blood of Jesus. You and I are eyewitnesses of the miraculous as God works in us and through us to accomplish His mission on this earth and the final miracle will come for us on the last day when we will be taken into paradise with Him.