

Worship Alive Plus! Themes  
for the Sundays in February 2008

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>: The Transfiguration of Our Lord/Last Sunday after the Epiphany: “A Mountain Top Experience”**

**RCL:** Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2 (7) or Psalm 99 (9)  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

**Theme: “A Mountain Top Experience” Matthew 17:1-9**

As we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord this morning, we are reminded of how powerful mountaintop experiences are in our lives. Mountain experiences often help us cope with life in the valley. They give us insight into the future and help us interpret the past. There is no doubt that Peter, James and John had such an experience on that mount of transfiguration because it gave them enormous comfort and strength for the persecutions and trials to come. It was so powerful, dramatic and inspiring that they wanted to leave their wives and lives below and just put up tents and stay. This event spoke prophetically about the future and gave insight into the past. But mountaintop experiences must end. The disciples had to go back down into the valley. Today we go to the mountaintop with Jesus that we might be prepared for ongoing life in our own valleys!

**February 10<sup>th</sup>: First Sunday in Lent**

**RCL:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalm 32 (10)  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

**Theme: “Fight the War with the Word!” Matthew 4:1-11**

Life is difficult and at times it is a daily battle. St. Paul tells us that we do not battle against flesh and blood but against the rulers, authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. There’s a real enemy. There’s a real war going on daily! Watching Jesus’ time in the desert as He faced temptation is how we learn how to fight such a war. When the forces of darkness come against us we can stand firm, holding fast and overcoming every temptation that comes. It was not because Jesus was God that He overcame temptation, but because of how He “handled it.” So, listen up! Stand up! Hold firm! And do what Jesus did: fight the war with the Word!

**February 17<sup>th</sup>: Second Sunday in Lent**

**RCL:** Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121 (1,2)  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

**Theme: “Promise Kept for Promise Breakers” Romans 4:1-17**

Have you ever broken a promise? Tell the truth: none of us are promise keepers. We all have failed others through our failure to match our promises with deeds. But, today is not about our being promise breakers, but rather celebrating the Promise Keeper. The Father made a lasting promise to Abraham. Abraham believed the promise that the Messiah would come through his bloodline. And the promise was kept not because of Abraham’s faithfulness but because of our Promise Keeping Father. Today He offers you promises, too, and you can also grow as a promise keeper. When you grow in faith and trusting in His promises you become both a promise fulfilled and a promise keeper more like Jesus.

**February 24<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday in Lent**

**RCL:** Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95 (1)

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

**Theme: “Forgiven and Changed Forever!” Romans 5:1-8 (9-11)**

Most likely you have seen someone be “made over” on a TV show. Maybe it was a dad who looked pretty outdated and grungy only to be made over and look like a new man! Or maybe it was a single mom of five children who hadn’t had time for herself who looked worn out and frazzled and ended up looking like a model! Have you ever wondered what a makeover could do for you? The truth is you have already received one through Christ! Today Paul tells us in no uncertain terms that because of Christ we have been made new - a makeover! We are forgiven and changed forever! While we were at our worst -while we were yet sinners - Christ “made over” the world. The question for you today is simple: Are you living as the “new you”?