

## **Christian Worship Hymn 97—Down from the Mount of Glory**

*Down from the mount of glory Came Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Recall the wondrous story, Rich gem in sacred Word.  
Again your faith will view him in double glory here;  
The greater homage due him Will in your life appear.*

*Transfigured, Christ, the lowly, Stood radiant in the light,  
Light found in Godhead solely, For human eyes too bright.  
Then came a voice from heaven, Confirmed what here we see;  
The words “my Son” were given To seal his deity.*

*Yet mark this glory hidden! See him the mount descend  
And, by the Father bidden, His willing footsteps bend  
To seek humiliation In deepest depths of woe,  
To suffer degradation No mind can probe or know.*

*Strange how his journey ended! In love that is his fame  
Our Lord again ascended A mount—the hill of shame.  
Upon the cross he proffered Himself to agony;  
His holy soul he offered To set the guilty free.*

*Then hail the double glory Of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
And let the wondrous story Full peace and joy afford!  
The holy mount acclaims him The majesty divine;  
Mount Calvary proclaims him Redeemer—yours and mine.*

The hymn for this week is Hymn 97 out of Christian Worship, the WELS Hymnal. This hymn was written by Werner Franzmann relatively recently, 1968, while he was the managing editor of the WELS *Northwestern Lutheran* now *Forward in Christ*.

Franzmann makes a beautiful connection with his hymn in his comparison of two different mountains: the mount of transfiguration and the mount of Calvary. He shows the stark contrasts between the two mountains and in the same way, shows the exact purpose of both.

He bids us in stanza one to revisit that mount of glory, that mount of transfiguration. He promises that our faith will benefit and its fruit will bear forth in our lives. How true that is any time we stop to ponder and digest God’s Word. Stanza two goes on to describe Jesus as he was transfigured on the mountain. Radiant in glory, light only God could produce. Jesus was transfigured to show his deity, to show that he was true God. That’s why the Father voiced his approval and called him his son.

But as quickly as it happened it was over. And Jesus was heading down the mountain, willingly treading toward his suffering and death. He would face humiliation and degradation beyond what anyone can comprehend because he would be bearing the sins of the whole world. And how ironic that this journey which began on a mountain would end on a mountain, but this time not of glory but of shame. There he offered his life, he gave himself to agony in order to set us guilty sinners free.

So as we finish the week thinking about Jesus’ transfiguration, we praise his double glory. The glory he received on the mount showed him to be God’s beloved Son. The glory he received on Mount Calvary is the glory that proclaims him as our Savior. And he would show that glory as he rose from the dead, no longer meek and lowly, but once again exalted with the full use of his divine power and glory. What beautiful bookends to the Lenten season! May God bless our Lenten journey from mountain to mountain.