PAGE 12 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2002

Jesus is Transfigured

By JOE SARNICOLA

When Jesus was with three of his closest friends, Peter, James and John, he told them to follow him. They walked and walked until they were at the top of a high mountain. Jesus stopped and looked at his friends, and smiled at them with love. As he did, his face shone as if it were the sun, and his clothes became like a bright, white light. Within the beacon of light that surrounded Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared and were talking

Peter, James and John looked at each other. They were amazed by the vision that they were watching. Peter spoke to Jesus. "Lord, it is good that we are here." With his left hand he pointed at Moses and with his right hand he pointed at Elijah. "If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one

Before Peter could finish his sentence, a huge glowing cloud formed in the sky over him, James and John. Except for the light coming from Jesus, the shadow of the cloud engulfed the three men in total darkness. A loud, booming voice spoke from the center of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The three men were terrified, and fell down on the ground shivering.

Then Peter felt the hand of Jesus on his shoulder. "Rise, my friends, and do not be afraid." Peter, James and John looked up. Only Jesus was with them, and the sky was cloudless, blue and bright. Jesus motioned for his friends to come forward

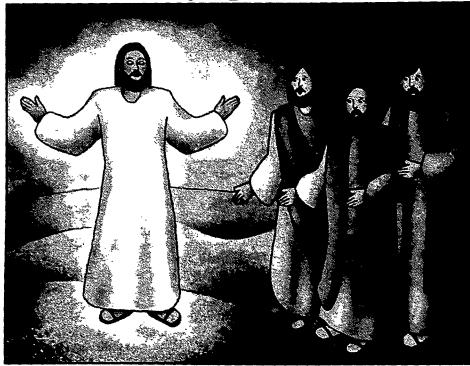


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

with him with a wave of his hand.

On the way back down the mountain, Jesus told them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The three disciples nodded agreement silently, then one of them asked, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to

him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands." The disciples realized that Jesus was telling them that he was referring to John the Baptist. Later that evening, Jesus said, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him and he will be raised on the third day."

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Matthew 17

1. What happened to Jesus on the moun-

2. What did Jesus say about Elijah?

St. Siefrid

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The winner to the last trivia question was Maria Kane of Rochester, a student in the Seton Home Study Program. In response to "Can you name the four Gospels of the New Testament?", Maria wrote, "The four Gospels of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."

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Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with the correct answers. The first letters of the answers will spell a mystery word. Answers on page 9.

- 1. heavenly father
- 2. church time between Pentecost and Advent
- 3. disobeying God
- 4. author of many New Testament letters
- 5. Communion
- 6. church season before Easter

Mystery word:



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