



## Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

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*"...And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white."  
Matthew 17:2*

As we transition into the Second Week of Lent we journey from the desert where Jesus resisted temptation to the beautiful, mysterious, strange and awesome experience of the transfiguration of Jesus. St. John of the Cross called this type of experience the movement from the desolation of the *"active dark night of the senses."* Grace helps us through the purging of our mortal temptations where we rise, as if on eagles wings, to the consolation of the mountain top experience. In this Gospel Jesus gives us a glimpse into another world where we join that privileged party, *"Peter and James and his brother John."* In reflection, we enter quietude as we prayerfully contemplate the solemnity of this moment.

Through faith alone we *"see"* with our cleansed spiritual senses that Jesus is the Messiah. His fulfillment of the law and the prophets is seen not only by the chosen three but also by you and I as we so choose to live out our Lenten disciplines. This then becomes for us the mystery that we carry in mission, sustaining us, as it did *"Peter and James and his brother John."* Let this experience sustain us in the weeks ahead for the Passion Sunday and Holy Week readings in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. We now know who Jesus truly is: the new Moses, the law, and the new Elijah, the prophet. Faith alone centers us within this Lenten Journey, revealing Jesus as the leader who liberates God's People and breaks the chain of exile once and for all.

Peter's response becomes our response, *"Lord, it is good for us to be here"* for we, too, are thunderstruck at the Father's voice from the clouds, *"This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"* This inaugurates a new liturgical festivity that proceeds from the Jewish feast of Tabernacles (tents or booths.) What a breathtaking glimpse of who Jesus is and His gift of the Church!

In the words of Pope Francis, *"We are called to be people who listen to his voice and take his words seriously."* To listen to Jesus, we must journey close to him along the Pilgrims Way of the Cross. As we carry his mission into the world it seeds in a mysterious way the hearts of others. As the mystical Body of Christ, our suffering and sacrifice is comingled with Christ's Cup of Suffering on the altar, where it is raised up and offered to God the Father. God consecrates our *"barakah"* offering, where we are fortified and given eternal life as we partake of the Cup of Salvation.

In the words of Saint Paul to Timothy:

*"Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God... Christ Jesus destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel."*

As we journey forward in the Lenten Weeks before us, *"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!"* Ps 122

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus took Peter and James and his brother John  
and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.  
And he was transfigured before them,  
and his face shone like the sun,  
and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.  
Then Peter said to Jesus,  
*“Lord, it is good for us to be here;  
if you wish, I will make three tents here,  
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”*

While he was still speaking,  
suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them,  
and from the cloud a voice said,  
*“This is my Son, the Beloved;  
with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”*

When the disciples heard this,  
they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying,  
*“Get up and do not be afraid.”*

And when they looked up,  
they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them,  
*“Tell no one about the vision  
until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”*

***The Gospel of the Lord***

