



WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle C

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"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Luke 9:35

Luke's account of the transfiguration comes just after the prediction of the passion of Jesus. It reaffirms what Jesus previously exhorted to his disciples, where he predicted his passion and death as the path to Glory. (*"The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."* Luke 9:22)

We shout *"Glory to God!"* and in return Jesus the Christ leads us to be glorified. Through Christian discipleship *we are called to Glory*, through our own lifetime of right ordered passion and divinely appointed mission.

Taking Peter, John and James with him, Jesus ascends the mountain to pray. In the midst of his prayer his appearance changes, revealing his transparency to God from the interior of his being. This gift of the essence of God's Spirit (*habitual grace*) permeates Jesus entirely. What begins in the interior of Jesus flows out into the world, the path of Spirit incarnating the flesh (*actual grace as sacrament.*) Elijah the prophet and Moses the Law-bearer appear with him. They speak together of what is to come. Through the witness of Peter, John and James, Jesus teaches us to stay true to the Law and the prophets, conforming our spirit and flesh into the will of God.

Jesus, Moses and Elijah discuss his approaching departure (*exodus*) at Jerusalem. The original Greek word is *"exodus,"* which evokes the exodus of Israel from Egypt. As the Israelites passed through the sea and entered the Promised Land, so Jesus will pass through death and enter into his Glory.

Peter wants to erect three tents (*Tabernacles,*) symbolic of the Old Testament dwelling place for the Divine. But Jesus is the only Divine present. If there were tents to be built, only one would be necessary. But the task of discipleship is not to build tents. The Divine Jesus is not to be confined for the few. He is to be heard by all. This is emphasized by God's word, shattering the cloud, *"Listen to him!"*

When the vision ends, the disciples see only Jesus. It is here that he inaugurates the inbreaking of the New Age, fulfilling the Law and the prophecies of old. *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."* (Matt 5:17)

As you reflect on this beautiful passage, enter into it with wonder and awe, for this is a magnificent vision. Imagine yourself in the place of Peter, John or James. How would you react and be changed by such a vision? Prepare a journal of this extraordinary journey, changed by what you have seen – a very different person walking down the mountain than when you ascended with Jesus!

A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James,
and went up on the mountain to pray.
And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face changed,
and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as Moses and Elijah were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him,

*"Master, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three tents,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."*

Peter did not know what he was saying.
While Peter was saying this,
a cloud came and overshadowed them;
and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.
Then from the cloud came a voice that said,

"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.
And the disciples kept silent
and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord