

“Transfiguration”

In last week’s Gospel, Jesus showed us that we will be tempted just as He was tempted in the desert. This week, the second Sunday of Lent, Jesus reveals his glory in the presence of three of His chosen disciples, Peter, James, and John. His revelation of His glory points us to three things: Preparation of the three disciples for the scandal of the cross which points to His death and resurrection. It points to Him as the fulfilment of the law and prophets. Lastly, what we as good Christians should look forward to.

Our first reading tells us like Abraham, when we are being tested, God is allowing us to develop our virtues of faith, hope, and love in Him, a theme that is continued in the Gospel. Our second reading tells us about the great power of God’s grace for our redemption, reminding us that **“If God is for us, who can be against us?”**

In the Gospel of Mark, before Jesus went up the mountain with His three disciples, He told His followers that He is the suffering servant who would lay down His life and would rise after three days. This revelation Prompted Peter to pull Jesus aside and rebuke Him; leading Jesus to call Peter Satan. Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John to witness His transfiguration. Again, on the way down the mountain after the transfiguration, Jesus told His disciples not to reveal what they saw to anyone until after His resurrection.

The transfiguration is sandwiched between two revelations tied to Jesus’ death and resurrection so that the faith of those who had witnessed His glory would not be shaken. The disciples would have the fullness of knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God who came to die so we can live. It is to let them know that He was born to die, and we are born to live so we can live with Him in eternity.

Moses and Elijah by conversing with Jesus on the mountain represented the Law and the Prophets. Their presence point, unequivocally to the continuation of God’s revelation of Himself to us who were represented by the three apostles on one hand. On the other hand, the three apostles also represented the continuation of Jesus’ ministry after His ascension by all the apostles and their successors.

The transfiguration was a union or concrete connection between the Old and the New. It was a revelation of Jesus as the fulfillment of both and a revelation of Him as the bearer of the New and everlasting Covenant.

In the Hebrew Testament, Moses, when he went to converse with God after receiving the Ten Commandments on the mountain would come back and his face would be radiant (Exod 34:29-35). While Elijah was transported by in a fiery chariot after his mission on earth (2 King 2:11). They both represented the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah.

Lent prepares us for the celebration of what Jesus has done for us by His death and resurrection. Jesus by His transfiguration event, gave us hope that if we are faithful to God, some day we will enter into a new life with Him and we too will be changed. Our insecurity or feelings of not

being good enough for God would disappear and we would share in the glory which first occurred on that mountain.

All our readings today should strengthen our faith especially when we are faced with adversity in this life. We should remember what God has done for us. We should remember the voice of God on the mountain that proclaimed Jesus as the beloved Son and commanded the disciples to listen to Him.

What we are supposed to listen to, is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that He passed on to His Apostles who passed them on to His Church. As St Paul said, “**stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours**” (2 Thessalonian 2:15). We are supposed to listen not to part of it, but to the whole of it.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us resolve in our minds that we will repent and believe in the Gospel.