

Journeying Together

Second Week of Lent:

God's Transfiguring Love



OPENING RESPONSES

Reader: We gather in the name of the Father

**All: Who delights in his human children
when they trust in his infinite love for them
and allow it to change their lives.**

Reader: We gather in the name of the Son

**All: Who models for his brothers and sisters
what a person on fire with the love of God looks like.**

Reader: We gather in the name of the Holy Spirit

**All: Who comes into our souls in baptism
and kindles in us a fire of love
that can transform us
and the world.**

Reader: We gather...

**All: (*making the Sign of the Cross*) in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen**

GOSPEL READING – Mark 9:2-10

Listen as the Gospel is read. It can help to close your eyes—or look at the person—or the image on the screen. Choose the one that suits you.

PERSONAL TIME WITH THE GOSPEL

The Gospel for the Second Sunday in Lent is always the Transfiguration – just as the one for the First Sunday is always the Temptation of Jesus.

It is as if the Church is offering us two images of Jesus – his humanity in being tempted – and then how his divinity occasionally breaks through and takes his followers by surprise – as in the Transfiguration.

We do not know whether Jesus was expecting the Transfiguration – or Elijah and Moses to appear. We do know that he did not go alone but chose friends to accompany him. This changed their relationship even if the disciples did not understand what was going on.

Think about the Gospel – and all that happens and then ponder for yourself:

- Why do you think Jesus took people up the mountain with him?
- What emotional journey did Peter, James and John go on in this short encounter?
- What do you think Jesus, Moses and Elijah found to talk about?

GROUP REFLECTION

Here are some thoughts to help you to reflect together on the Gospel.

- What emotional journey did the disciples go on from heading up the hill to going back down again?
- How did it change their view of Jesus?
- Why does Jesus choose to have people accompany him during the Transfiguration rather than doing it alone?

LISTENING TOGETHER

Here are some thoughts drawn from the Gospel. As you listen or read them, make a note of any that strike you – either because they open up a new idea – or because they challenge you – or... any other reason!

- Jesus chooses to have people accompany him on a journey that leads to a very powerful experience for all of them.
- Jesus accompanies the disciples on a physical journey – and on an emotional and spiritual one.
- This is a rare occasion on which Jesus’ human and divine natures are “visible” at the same time.
- Peter, James and John suddenly see their friend as the Son of God.
- Moses and Elijah were people who knew that God could intervene in human life in unexpected but life-changing ways.
- Sometimes god shows his power in dramatic or unusual ways, (the transfiguration – or a burning bush) and sometimes in very simple ones (a small breeze).

A “mountaintop experience” of God can change someone’s life forever.

You might like to share on:

- What struck me about this Gospel and the effects on Jesus, Peter, James, John and Elijah and Moses?
- How does sharing experiences or telling others about them help to make them more real?

REFLECTION AND ACTION POINT FOR THE WEEK

In your journal this week, you are invited to look back over your life and see what experiences you have had of feeling God at work in your life. Some – like Moses and the burning bush or Jesus and the Transfiguration might have been dramatic. Others – like finding God in a quiet moment like Elijah – are less dramatic but nonetheless real. As before, what you record in your journal – in writing – or sketching – or whatever works for you – is private but see if you can find something to put into a few words to share with your group next week.

CLOSING PRAYER

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Reader: I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Reader: Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Reader: My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Amen