

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT ~ CYCLE A MARCH 12, 2017

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4 [Abram went as the Lord directed him]

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33 ["Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you."]

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10 [Bear your share of the hardship the Gospel entails with the strength that comes from God]

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 [This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him]

ANNA
~ you can hear it / in Marty Haugen's musical reflection / on this gospel story
that the disciples / didn't have a clue / what Jesus was trying to teach them
by inviting them / to share this mountain experience / with him, Moses & Elijah

♪ **It's so nice on the mountain of Tabor, no people in need / with faces to feed,
when you've had it to here with your neighbor**

it's so good to be here with Jesus..... / & Moses..... / & Elijah..... / & you guys..... ♪

*They thought Jesus was taking them apart
to escape everyday / pressures / activities / responsibilities.*

But it was to be able / to go down the mountain

& walk with Jesus to Jerusalem - to the cross

with the **hope** that comes from knowing that the **RESURRECTION / WILL COME**

Every year during **Lent** we are challenged to **recall** & **continue** the journey —*of living our Baptism*

This journey of ours / is **not** a **one-time experience** / but an **ongoing** event—

where we are constantly being blessed by God with the strength /

that Paul speaks about in the 2nd reading / so we can continue / on this daily **Baptismal Journey**

"bear your share of hardship / for the Gospel / with the strength / that comes from God"

We are **all** invited / by Jesus / up the Mountain / to spend time with Him,

to listen for and hear God's voice, / to be transformed by that experience

so we can go back to / the *valley of our everyday* / assured of / Jesus' **presence** and **power**



PETER The Lord we see in today's Gospel is an image not only of the God we worship, he is an image of who we are - beloved sons & daughters of God - and who we are called to be - women and men who live the way he lived and love the way he loved. St Clare wrote words that invite us to really reflect on the Gospel of the Transfiguration. They have been set to music by a 20th century member of the community she founded, the Poor Clares:

♪ **GAZE upon the LORD; GAZE upon his FACE.**
GAZE upon the ONE who HOLDS YOU in his EMBRACE.
GAZE upon his LIFE; GAZE upon his LOVE;
GAZE upon his COMING POOR from HEAV'N ABOVE.

Clare believed that if you gaze upon the Lord Jesus, receiving his love, reflecting on the way he lived & loved, you will see your best self reflected. Francis of Assisi saw Jesus in lepers, in the poor & in his brothers & sisters.

We have seen Jesus in the life of a man who was released from prison 7 months ago. He had been incarcerated for many years, but found faith while in prison & lived that faith by the way he treated other inmates, guards & counselors.

He is still struggling to find his way in a culture that makes it very difficult to imitate Jesus, but his refusal to give up hope, his willingness to let go of grudges and resentments and his deep desire to pass on the blessings he has received from his spiritual family - a group Sr. Anna and I are a part of - is evidence that he has experienced the transfiguration we hear about in today's Gospel.

Have you ever seen Jesus? He shows himself to us in the 21st century in the faces of the ones who are here with us today, in the body and blood of Christ that we are for each other and that we receive in the Eucharist, and in the Gospel story of the Transfiguration we just heard.

But to see Jesus clearly, we need the *faith of Abraham* & the *vision of Paul* described in today's readings. We sometimes do not see because, deep down, we know that to really see Jesus will often call me to change both attitudes & behaviors.

We profess our **faith** every Sunday. The faith revealed in the Bible is not an intellectual understanding, it is a choice to Gaze upon the Lord, and to become more and more what we see.

Faith has many facets, like a diamond. It is more about **doing** than about understanding. It's more about living the creed than reciting it. Abraham, in the 1st reading, **did** what God asked him to do, even though he was already 75 yrs old. Biblical faith is about treating Muslims, Jews and Christians as children of Abraham, which is how the Church describes us and them.

Faith is about meeting Christ in the person next to me - & reaching out, together, to the hungry & the homeless. You have done that in this community in so many ways after Hurricane Irene. Christian Faith is about seeing Christ in those in prison & the formerly incarcerated & immigrants who are fleeing to find freedom & prosperity, as our ancestors did over the past centuries. But that vision is meant to reach beyond the people who are like us, and it requires prayer and discernment to hear what God is calling each of us to do.

Real & Living Faith is as much about seeing the way Jesus sees as it is about seeing Jesus. It is about seeing even death the way Jesus did, trusting that it can be the road to resurrection, both when we die and as a part of the process of living.

ANNA *The apostles saw **Jesus** with his **face** shining like the sun & his **clothes** dazzling white.*

They heard God's voice & they still didn't get it.

We don't see **Jesus** with his **face** shining like the sun & his **clothes** dazzling white.

How are we going to be able to listen for God's voice...to get it?

*Like the apostles we settle in / get comfortable on / our own mountain tops
- **and then** along comes **LENT***

*We open our eyes / & / see only Jesus - hear him inviting us
to go back into / the valley of our everyday life. /*

What **valley** are you walking back into? ~ What will you take with you from the **mountain**?

Come / spend some more time / with **Jesus** on the mountain

as the Ecumenical Lenten Renewal / continues on **Tuesday** & **Thursday** of this week -

Come & "Gaze upon the Lord" / & / grow to be more like / the **one** we believe in.

Conclusion If you come to the renewal, we promise Jesus will help you
not only to see the God who loves us but to hear God's voice
and to be inspired by the Spirit of God to be more like what we see,
you will discover the truth in this song:

A&P  **PETER, JAMES AND JOHN / WENT UP WITH HIM / TO PRAY**
WHEN SUDDENLY / BRIGHT LIGHT / WAS EVERYWHERE / THEY SAY
LET'S BUILD THREE TENTS / AND STAY RIGHT HERE / WITH THEM
“THIS IS MY MOST LOVED SON” / THEY HEARD
AND THEN / THEY WERE ALONE /..... “w e l l.....”
Surprise, /surprise, /God is a surprise, / right before your eyes. / It's baffling to the wise.
Surprise, /surprise, /God is a surprise, /Open up your eyes /and see. -----

