

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday August 2 for the Transfiguration of the Lord

OPENING PRAYER All wise and loving God, you bless us with a share of your divine wisdom and life. May we always have the wisdom to choose you above all things. Grace us now with the wisdom and heart to hear and respond to the Word you place before us today. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Transfiguration of Jesus.

1 Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2 And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

4 Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents* here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,* then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.

7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

8 And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, “Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Matthew 17:1-9

Thoughts and reflection on the Gospel Passage

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

The apostle's experienced Jesus is a profound way. Have you had such an experience in your life? If so, would you be willing to share?

Peter wanted to stay on the mountain top. Jesus told him "We have work to do" What about us?

What relationship can there be between Jesus' transfigured glory revealed on this mountain and the suffering he will endure on Golgotha?

What does it mean for the disciples to follow such a leader?

Commentary

The transfiguration marks the midpoint in a series of scenes that define who Jesus is. At both his baptism and transfiguration the heavenly voice announces that he is God's son. At his temptation, in Gethsemane, and at his crucifixion, Jesus wrestles with the humiliation, suffering, and abandonment that he, as Son of God, must endure. Finally the resurrected Jesus claims his identity, sending his disciples out to teach and baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In the scenes leading up to the transfiguration, the disciples worship the Jesus who walks on water as the Son of God (Matthew 14:33), but they cannot yet imagine what it means for Jesus to claim this title. Although Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God, he utterly rejects Jesus' announcement that he will suffer and die. Jesus affirms Peter's insight but rejects his protest, calling him Satan for tempting the Son of God to define himself by glory but not by suffering. Furthermore, he calls Peter and anyone else who wants to be his disciple to follow him on the road that leads to the cross.

Six days later, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up onto a high mountain. There he is transformed before them. His face shines like the sun, and his clothes become white as light (descriptions unique to Matthew). Moses and Elijah appear and talk to Jesus. As in Mark and Luke, Peter says, "It is good for us to be here," and suggests building tents for each of the three, but Matthew treats Peter differently here than the other Gospels do: Peter calls Jesus "Lord," the title that in Matthew indicates faith; he defers to Jesus' will ("if you wish"); he offers to undertake the construction of tents there alone ("I will build here," vs. "let us build" in Mark and Luke); and there is no indication at this point that he is afraid or does not know what he is saying (cf. Mark 9:6, Luke 9:33).

Jesus does not respond to the offer, but while Peter is still speaking, a brilliant cloud overshadows them. A voice from the cloud in Matthew 17 echoes the words of the heavenly voice at Jesus' baptism: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (NRSV translates Matthew 17:5 and Matthew 3:17 slightly differently, but the wording is identical in Greek). Then the voice adds a command: "listen to him!" At the sound of God's voice, the disciples collapse in terror.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom
Starting Aug 2 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm EST Weekly on Wednesday
notes

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: August 2, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/tZlkd-qgrj8qG9Rt4LoXWaku9w9Mo6AzLDCs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzspEtSRsBiHRpwAHYigb_zziClfjfpviEvJDBhkYwjjb_UbH7opMcL8

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGblZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0380 4010

Passcode: 086586

One tap mobile

+13017158592,
event

Organizer: Blessed Sacrament Parish