

Wednesday March 12 for the Second Sunday in Lent

OPENING PRAYER: Good and gracious God, Open our minds and hearts to the Word you want us to hear and act upon as we gather together to pray and share your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- 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.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke 9:28-36

The Transfiguration of Jesus.*

28^a About eight days after he said this, he took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray.*

29 While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

30 And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah,*

31^{* f} who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

32 Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory* and the two men standing with him.^s

33 As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents,* one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” But he did not know what he was saying.

34* While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

35* † Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”

36 After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time* tell anyone what they had seen.

Notes

* [9:28–36] Situated shortly after the first announcement of the passion, death, and resurrection, this scene of Jesus’ transfiguration provides the heavenly confirmation to Jesus’ declaration that his suffering will end in glory (Lk 9:32); see also notes on Mt 17:1–8 and Mk 9:2–8.

* [9:28] Up the mountain to pray: the “mountain” is the regular place of prayer in Luke (see Lk 6:12; 22:39–41).

* [9:30] Moses and Elijah: the two figures represent the Old Testament law and the prophets. At the end of this episode, the heavenly voice will identify Jesus as the one to be listened to now (Lk 9:35). See also note on Mk 9:5.

* [9:31] His exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem: Luke identifies the subject of the conversation as the exodus of Jesus, a reference to the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus that will take place in Jerusalem, the city of destiny (see Lk 9:51). The mention of exodus, however, also calls to mind the Israelite Exodus from Egypt to the promised land.

* [9:32] They saw his glory: the glory that is proper to God is here attributed to Jesus (see Lk 24:26).

* [9:33] Let us make three tents: in a possible allusion to the feast of Tabernacles, Peter may be likening his joy on the occasion of the transfiguration to the joyful celebration of this harvest festival.

* [9:34] Over them: it is not clear whether them refers to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, or to the disciples. For the cloud casting its shadow, see note on Mk 9:7.

* [9:35] Like the heavenly voice that identified Jesus at his baptism prior to his undertaking the Galilean ministry (Lk 3:22), so too here before the journey to the city of destiny is begun (Lk 9:51) the heavenly voice again identifies Jesus as Son. Listen to him: the two representatives of Israel of old depart (Lk 9:33) and Jesus is left alone (Lk 9:36) as the teacher whose words must be heeded (see also Acts 3:22).

* [9:36] At that time: i.e., before the resurrection.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Jesus took Peter, James and John up to a mountain. Where do you like to pray? What do you like about praying alone and with others?
2. In the Gospel, Peter, James and John have a powerful, unforgettable and indescribable experience of God. Have you ever had an experience of God that transformed your life? If not, share a time when you felt especially close to God.

Commentary

The Transfiguration of Jesus is an epiphany story. In epiphany stories, the veil which separates the invisible world from the visible, and the future from the present, is removed temporarily and the divine is revealed. In the Transfiguration story, Peter, James and John catch a glimpse of Jesus in his glory. In today's Gospel, Jesus goes with his inner circle to pray. Some scholars suggest that at this point in Jesus' ministry, he wonders if he should stay in Galilee to continue preaching the Gospel or to go to Jerusalem where he would most likely be killed. During his prayer on the mountain, Jesus has a mystical experience. God's presence is revealed to him in a very powerful way. "While he was praying, his face changed in appearance." Then the two giants of Israel's religion appear: Moses (symbolizing the Law) and Elijah (symbolizing the Prophets). They "spoke

of his Exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem” – a reference to Jesus’ passage through death to new life. Jesus now knows he must go to Jerusalem even if it means death. (This is not unlike great leaders who know they must go to places that may well cost them their lives.) Luke tells us how this story is also a “mountaintop” or awe-filled experience for Peter, James and John. They are so overcome with what is going on that Peter suggests they set up camp and never leave the place (just like how we might feel after a wonderful retreat experience). But Peter is “in over his head.” He does not know what he is saying. He does not yet realize that before the glory comes the Cross. A heavenly voice speaks: “This is my Chosen One; listen to him.” These words are a wonderful act of affirmation of Jesus by his Father. For the Apostles, it is a moment of great revelation. The One in their midst is truly God’s Chosen One! They must listen to him and follow him. They will of course only recognize the full meaning of this awe-filled event after Jesus has passed through death into new life. This event is a glimpse of what is ahead for Jesus and his inner circle.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord’s Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom
Wednesday, 6:30 March 12 – 6:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

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

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: March 12, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9233wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618

Passcode: 280607