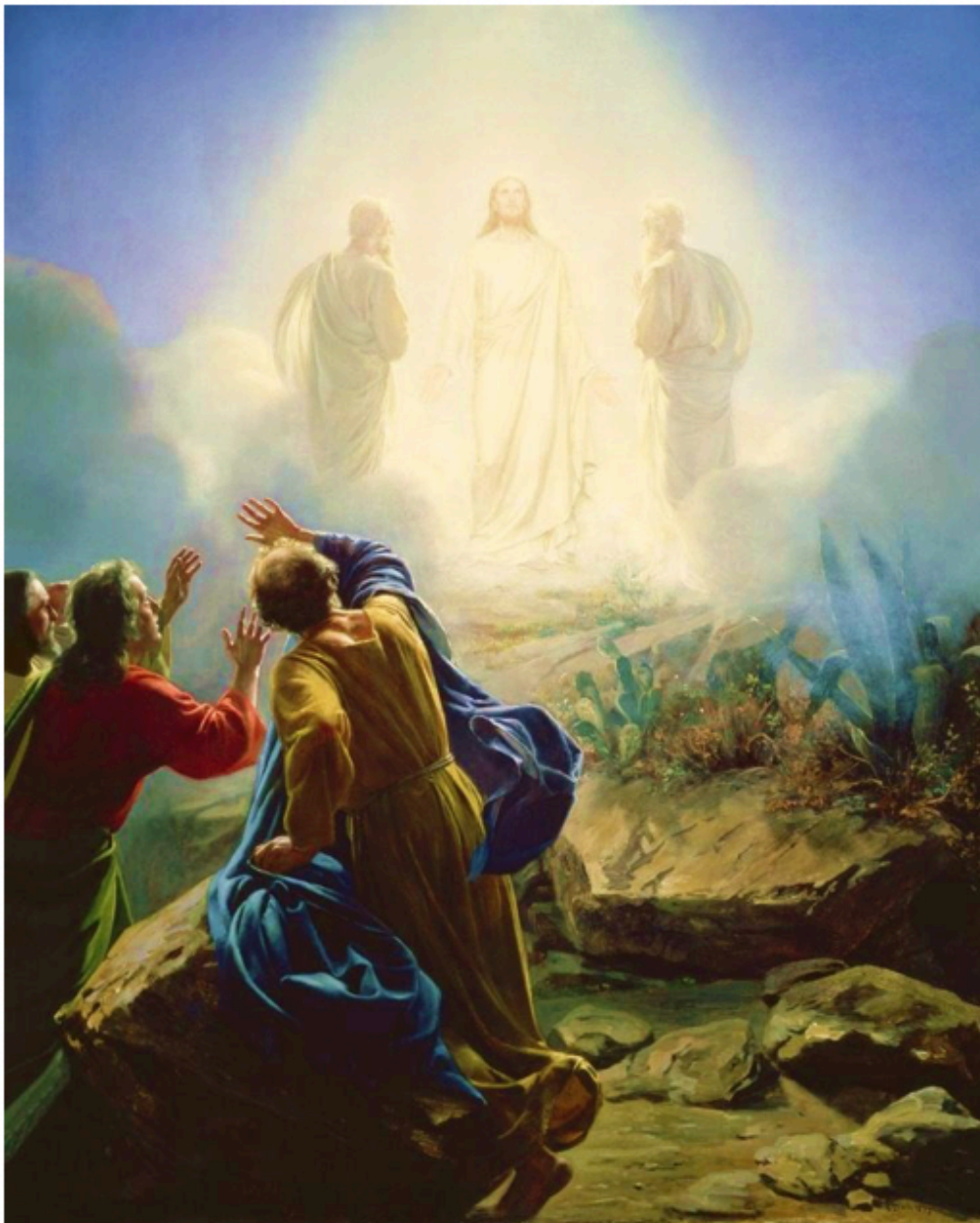


LENT 2021: Our Hope Renewed

2nd Sunday of Lent



The Transfiguration ~ Carl-Heinrich-Bloch

“This is my Son, the Beloved, Listen to him.”

Opening Prayer

Lord on this 2nd Sunday of Lent help us to hear God's voice, shine a light on the dark places and awaken us to your constant presence.

Keep us hopeful and help us to spread that hope to others who are struggling during this time. As we reflect on the scriptures may our hearts be open to your Holy Spirit speaking to us through your Word.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Readings for the Second Sunday of Lent - Year B

First Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Psalm: Psalm 115(116): 10, 15-19

Second Reading: Romans 8: 31-34

Gospel Reading: Mark 9: 2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Lectio Divina

Reading

Take your time and read the passage. Get a sense of what it is saying. Read the passage a second time. Listen for any words or phrases that strike you, and listen

in your heart. Be attentive to detail. Note versus or phrases that stand out to you. Where to understand meaning and background.

In this passage... My favourite verse was... I noticed...

Reflecting

Read the passage again, slowly. As you pause on the words or phrases that strike you, take time to consider what the word, phrase, or passage means, particularly its connection to your life. Imagine being present to hear the passage or witness the story.

This reminds me of... If I were there... I can connect this story to...

Responding

Read the passage again, slowly. Consider now how God has spoken to you in this passage and respond back to him. You may want to consider how this passage is asking you to act differently. Thank God for his word. Ask him to lead you into deeper understanding.

Dear Jesus... Thank you God for... Please help me understand...

Remaining

Now take some time to simply remain in the presence of God. Quiet expression of love between you and God. Note what God is trying to teach you through the passage and time of prayer.

I think Jesus is teaching me... Lord, I love you for... I believe...

Reflection

In Mark's account of the transfiguration Jesus calls aside Peter, James and John to follow him. They didn't just go down the road, they climbed a mountain and Jesus led them up the mountain. They left everything else far behind. He wanted them to be alone, there was something which was for their eyes alone.

It almost sounds like something out of science fiction, this Jesus who emitted light and Mark struggles to describe this by telling us that his clothes 'were whiter than any bleach could make them'. He was so bright they couldn't see properly, they were dazzled.

The voice from the cloud affirmed that Jesus is the Father's precious and beloved Son and the task of the disciples is to listen to Jesus. They were overwhelmed and didn't know what was happening but when normality returned Jesus was still with them, he never left.

The disciples in Mark have a hard time understanding the road to the cross. The transfiguration and the Cross are two sides of the same coin. The disciples welcome the glorious face of Jesus the Messiah but they hard time understanding the suffering face of Jesus the Messiah.

That is why they are such an encouragement to us today. We do not need to be certain of everything to follow Jesus we just need to say yes and as we walk with Jesus some things will become clear and some more questions will come up. There will be pain and suffering and there will also be joy and peace. Both sides of the one coin but Jesus never leaves us, he is there at the top of the mountain and at the bottom of the mountain.

Here are a few questions to reflect on:

1. Do I follow Jesus up the mountain when I get the feeling that I should? Is there time in my life for this encounter?
2. Do I have a special place where I am more aware of God's presence?
3. Am I aware that Jesus never leaves me or those I love? In joy and in sorrow, he is always present.
4. Do I listen to the voice of Jesus, that little nudge I might get to 'reach out' or 'reach in'?

Closing Prayer

Lord,
We ask you to bless all those we care for
and give them hope for the future.
May your light shine on those
who feel the darkness surrounding them
and may you comfort those who feel alone.
May we follow your call to follow you
and listen to your voice in our hearts.
We as this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May almighty God bless us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.