

021124 "Transfiguration" Mark 9:2-9

1. Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday and end with Holy Week, which leads to Easter Sunday. It is a time we set aside each year to remember the love of God poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death. This season has a penitent nature, a solemn character. This is to help us to remember to be repentant and to remind us of our sin and mortality. Lent is 40 days long excluding Sundays. Since every Sunday is a "little Easter" celebrating the resurrection of Christ, Sundays remain feast days even during the solemn Lenten season.

We as Christians believe that this is to represent Jesus Christ's sacrifice when he went into the wilderness to pray and fast for the 40 days. For this reason, people often spend this season giving up things or fasting until Easter. In the Gospels, while Jesus was in the wilderness, Satan tempted him to turn away from God and love things in this world instead. Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:10)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, in this Lenten season, I hope and pray that you look up to Jesus intentionally again, who went to the cross to save those who believe in him. May it be a time for you to meditate on the path of sacrifice Jesus walked and pray together that we may walk with him!

2. Today is "Transfiguration Sunday". Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was

radiantly transfigured before them. The transfiguration is recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and even in 2 Peter – indicating its significance. Although the disciples do not understand its meaning, the Transfiguration and Jesus' charge to the disciples offer a promise of what is to come. There is hope because he will soon triumph over sin and death and be raised in the fullness of glory, the glory of which they have just been given a glimpse.

As we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday, it is a special chance to meditate on the Transfiguration of Jesus because Lent is not just about the suffering and death of Jesus, but also about the Lord's resurrection and eternal life. And this story is also God's promise to change, transform, and renew "your own life."

When Jesus was transfigured and his face shone like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Moses and Elijah are two key figures from the Old Testament. Moses led the Israelites, out of slavery in Egypt. He then met with God on Mount Sinai and gave the people God's laws, the Ten Commandments. After his intimate encounter with God, Moses' face glowed. Elijah was a prophet, one of God's messengers. He also went to Mount Sinai, where God revealed himself in a gentle whisper. Moses represents the Law and Elijah represents the prophets

here.

3. Prophecy and the law lead us to God to some extent. The law tells us that we are sinners, and prophecy reminds us that God is not only the God of the past, but also the God of the present and the future. But the one who will hold your hand and lead you into the Kingdom of God is Jesus.

Verse 8 says, "Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus." This shows us that Jesus was the only one remaining standing in front of them. All the enchanting scenes disappeared and only Jesus was seen in their eyes. Likewise, Jesus is the only one who will stand by our side until the end of our journey. It is very important that all the mysterious and heavenly events that Peter experienced disappeared in an instant and only Jesus remained standing!

The three disciples wanted to remain in that enchanted moment, but Jesus came down from the mountain to go out into the world again. There he accomplished the work of salvation. Sometimes we want to stay where we are, or even where we were. But the Lord tells us to move on! More precisely, he asks us to follow him faithfully and listen to him even in our hectic life.

Dear beloved sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, Lent is right in front of us. What a wonderful grace! Take this opportunity to bring you, your family, and your friends closer to Christ. Fairfield Grace, may God's grace, peace, goodness, and mercy be with you, your family, your business, your studies, and with the lives of your children. To Christ be thanks and praise. Amen.