

Lent 2 Year C

Readings: *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28b-36, Psalm 27*

Theme: The Transfiguration

"This is my Son the chosen, listen to Him."

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

My dear friends, our journey with our Lord Jesus Christ during this holy season of Lent is in the second week. Today, we reflect on the journey so far and listen to what the Lord has to say to us. At this time, the readings serve as a constant reminder to what God wants us to do. This is a season of transformation. A season of a complete about turn about our lives if we are not been fulfilling our duty as the people of God. The readings are constant reminders of our line of approach.

In the first reading we hear Abraham almost questioning God's promise to him to inherit the world. This is because he had no offspring. The Lord however assured him and Abraham trusted and that trust was his justification. Abraham showed gratitude by making an offering to God. This was the foundation of the covenant God made with the people of God.

In the second reading, Paul in his letter to the Christians in Philippi urges the Christian to imitate him and observe those who live according to the dictates of the Lord. He encourages them to ignore those who live their lives as if there is no God. The end after all is going to be destructions. For the believer, there are times of humiliation and troubling times but that will lead to glory as the Cross of Christ lead to his glory. Paul therefore asks the Christians to stand firm in face of adversity.

In the Gospel, we hear about the transformations of Christ on the Mountain. This follows Jesus' first passion prediction with the promise that some of those present would see the Kingdom of God. Jesus is said to go up to the mountain to pray with his three disciples and these same three disciples were to be present during his passion. Luke tells us that the conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah was about his Exodus to be completed in Jerusalem.

The voice that once spoke to Jesus at his baptism spoke again. This time it adds 'Listen to him'. This voice tells the disciples that the voice of Jesus - not that of Moses or Elijah - is now the voice of authority. In the past, God had

spoken his words through .They are equipped for whatever providence would bring to them. All that was certain was the Apostles, though without being aware, had a glimpse of the way Jesus was going to pass to his glory. The transfiguration was a sneak preview of our own resurrection when he will change our mortal bodies and make them like his as we read in the first reading (Philippians 3:21) But the road we had to take to our glorious destiny passes over the bridge of sighs, as Jesus himself had to pass through his passion and death into his glory. This was the subject of discussion between Jesus, Moses and Elijah on the Mountain.

The same is true for us. No pain, no palms; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory: no cross, no crown.

There is no one in the world without his or her daily cross. Life is the agent for trials and tribulations which it regularly introduces to us even when things go well, they are still going poorly. We all must expect some trouble in life.

Everyone has a problem. The only ones without problems are those in the cemetery. Just before Jesus went up the Mount, he asked his followers to carry their daily cross and even lose their lives for his sake so that they could save them; and on the Mountain God said, 'Listen to Him'

Lent is a time to be open to the ways which God can bring us salvation. It is a grace given opportunity to immerse ourselves in the collective pain of our brothers and sisters in Christ. There is no escaping the suffering, poverty and trouble that surround us. Yesterday, we heard of the earthquake in Chile, wherever you look there is problem. The Gospel of today points out that God is present in people's agony as much as he is in their ecstasy. In everyday life, we have real encounters with God. He is there in the unseen, behind the ordinary appearances of people and places. If we look closely enough we can discover that God's presence is waiting to be revealed.

Lord, in this holy season of Lent; open our eyes to be seen in our daily encounters.

Amen.