



# WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE B

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*"Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white..." Mark 9:3*

In our Gospel last week on the First Sunday of Lent we were reminded that Lent is a time for fasting, prayer and alms giving, In other words, a time to join Jesus in a "desert experience" to reflect and act on our particular gifts and pour out in pure oblation our time, vocation-oriented talents, and sharing of our material resources to others.

For this Second Sunday of Lent, we conclude our desert experience as we follow Jesus up the mountain, where He is transfigured. This transfiguration is revealed to Peter, James and John, leaders of the nascent Church Christ left behind, and now to us. Through a personal encounter of the transfigured mystical Christ, we witness to our community through His Holy Word a "path unto thy feet" (see Psalm 119:105) so that we might come to believe this transcendent mountain top experience as an illumination for the mind, heart and soul and a radical vision of a new life in Christ. This illumination radiates the Sacred Heart of Jesus through His dazzling white clothes. The light of Christ "shatters the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:4 It lifts the followers of Jesus as they rise above the mundane life of mortal existence, to an expanded view of the eternal reality of the Mystical Body of Christ.

*Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Mark 9:7* This voice from God the Father is a command for Christians down through the ages to prepare to journey down the mountain and follow Jesus all the way to his Passion, and Death. We all must pass through the refiner's fire, that painful fiery test leading to our confession, reconciliation and forgiveness for our sinful life. *"But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify us and refine our soul like gold and silver." (Malachi 3:2-3).*

To endure this test, Mother Church gives us manna, "our daily bread" (see Luke 11:3) through the Eucharist that sustains us through our earthly trials. We then are inspired through the example of Jesus Christ in His Passion to raise our eyes to the transcendent life, and hold steadfast to the vision of the New Jerusalem, where we rise victorious over death to a glorious resurrection where death has no sting. *"O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (see 1 Cor 15:55)*

In reflection this week, let us taste the sweetness of eternity as we see transfigured before us Christ from whom all mercy flows, even as our own life reflects His glory. Let our journey along the Pilgrim's Way of the Cross be filled with joy, even in the trials of life. Let us hold steadfast to the promise of a New Creation that awaits us.

*"I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living." Psalm 116*

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

Jesus took Peter, James, and John  
and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.  
And he was transfigured before them,  
and his clothes became dazzling white,  
such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.  
Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,  
and they were conversing with Jesus.  
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,  
"Rabbi, it is good that we are here!  
Let us make three tents:  
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."  
He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.  
Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;  
from the cloud came a voice,  
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."  
Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone  
but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain,  
he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone,  
except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.  
So they kept the matter to themselves,  
questioning what rising from the dead meant.

***The Gospel of the Lord***

