

Sunday, 6 August 2017

**"Listen to my beloved Son"****Reading 1:** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 9

**Reading 2:** 2 Peter 1:16-19**Gospel**

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Matthew 17:1-9

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 17:1-9*

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

**Meditation:** Today's feast of the transfiguration of Jesus is one of those gospel events that steps out of the ordinary as does, for example, the account of the baptism of Jesus by John. Both involve the presence of the divine and the divinely inspired. I think of the transfiguration as something like "coming attractions." The event takes place near the end of Jesus' public ministry and seems to act as a glimpse into the very near future -- Jesus' death and resurrection.

Jesus leads three of his disciples, Peter, James and John into this special scene and then astounding events unfolded before their eyes: "he was transfigured" before them; his "face shone like the sun;" and his garments became "white like the light." Peter responded by acknowledging, "how good it is for us to be here." Then the cloud, the ancient sign of the very presence of God overshadowed them, and the voice, "This is my beloved Son, listen to him."

What is going on here? From our historical perspective, we can look back and say that the disciples were given a preview of the glory that belongs to Jesus after his death and resurrection and in the fullness of the Kingdom of God. They do not know it now, but that is the same glory that they will be given after they bring the message of the Kingdom to their contemporaries.

What a special moment for them, and for us who receive the promise of ultimate glory from Jesus through God's generous love. We are invited to plumb the depths of this astonishing transfiguration moment in the lives of Jesus and the disciples.

I usually think of the "glory" of Jesus at the moment of the transfiguration being associated with his resurrection. But the truth is that BOTH the suffering/death of Jesus AND the resurrection represent to us the *glory* the Son has received from the Father.

The mount-top view of transfiguration gets its meaning from the hill-top of Golgotha and vice-versa. Our invitation is to acknowledge the *glory* in the crucifixion. Our lives are filled with experiences that we could describe as transfigurations: think of the birth of a child; honors coming from the hard work of getting an education; truly enjoying the benefits of good health. And our lives are filled with crucifixion experiences as well: the loss of a job or economic instability; the loss of a loved one to death; the pain of illness. The list can go on, and we are all called to be attentive to both types of experiences – those by which I am transfigured and those that are a crucifixion to me. The same *glory* shines through both of these real life situations if we but let it in, and in so doing we let Christ in at ever-deeper levels of our lives.

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

1. The Lord Jesus not only wants us to see his glory - he wants to share this glory with us. Are you prepared to see the glory of the Lord and to share in His glory? Name a person whom you will like to share this glory with.
2. Imagine if you were there seeing this marvelous event; how would you have felt? What would you have done and said?
3. God said "listen to Him" Do you listen to Him without hesitation or do you struggle to listen to Him? Why is it so?

*"Lord, help me to live into the reality of Christ's life, death and resurrection in my own history. Let me be more deeply aware of Jesus' presence to me and to live into as well as out of that glorious inviting presence that you are to me."*