

Sacrifice of Praise

Second Sunday of Lent: Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-9

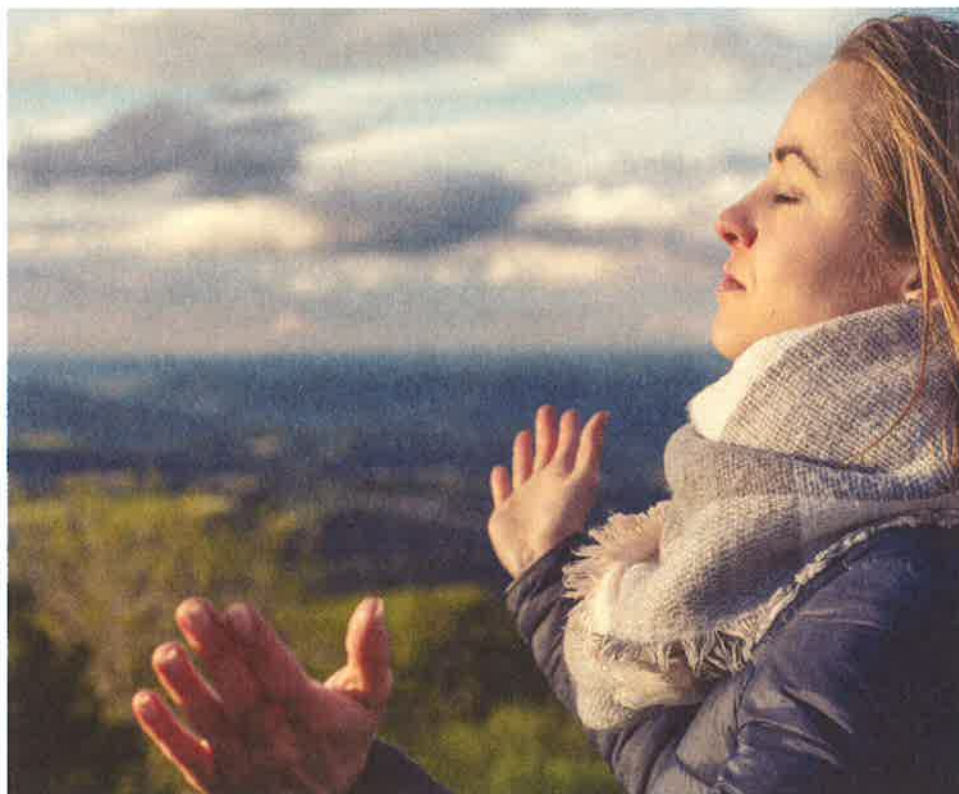
The Glory of the Lord Shone All About

Jesus led three chosen apostles — Peter, James, and John — to a high mountain. There Jesus was transfigured, appearing in dazzling white before them as a foreshadowing of his glorified self. What a magnificent moment for all to behold. The Lord’s “face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light” (Mt 17:2), a “dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them” (Mk 9:3).

As if that sight were not enough, appearing alongside the Lord were Moses and Elijah. Moses represents the Law and Elijah the prophets; both figures share having encountered God on a holy mountain and experienced an exodus. Both were representing significant moments and a prefiguring of Jesus’ mission, as well as being pivotal characters in the salvation history story.

How the three disciples must have doubted what their eyes were seeing. How often have we looked upon the Eucharist and doubted who was truly present before us? There on the altar in all his glory, under the guise of wine and bread, is our Lord and Savior — body, blood, soul, and divinity. Jesus, glorified in splendor before them, was preparing them for what was about to come, present to us in the Eucharist, preparing our hearts and soul for when he will come again.

Peter’s response seems strange and rash. He wishes to erect three booths to freeze that moment in time. He thought it an experience so incredible and unimaginable that he never wanted it to end — a reaction anyone who has been witness to the birth of a child, stood with a loved one at a wedding, or enjoyed a special vacation would understand; those times in our lives when the



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FOR REFLECTION

- How can prayer help you witness God’s glory?
- Describe how you feel in the presence of the Lord, hidden in the mystery of the Eucharist.
- Have you experienced a moment so special you never wanted to leave it?

world seems to stand still as the event unfolded before our eyes, in ways so unexpected or unparalleled, our hearts burst with joy!

Then, while Peter was still speaking, a cloud descended, and the voice of God breaks through Peter’s ramblings, and says, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him” (Mk 9:7). God is not merely

delivering this message to these chosen three, but he is revealing Jesus’ authority to each of us.

How often are we, like Peter, still speaking instead of prayerfully discerning the circumstances unfolding before us in life. How often do we allow the Holy Spirit, and the voice of God, to quiet us as to instruct and guide, that we may better know the will of God in our lives?

We are deaf to the guidance and blessings God longs to bestow — the gift of salvation, the gift only he, through his Son, can offer. How often in prayer do you sit quietly and listen for the whisper of the Holy Spirit to guide your heart? Do you allow God to interrupt your own narrative when he seeks to speak to you?



Prayer

Heavenly Father, hide not your glory from me. Open my eyes so I might notice in the people I meet, the beauty of nature, and the quiet of my heart while in prayer how all display your glory. The Transfiguration prepared the disciples for what they were about to experience in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. May my Lenten practices transform my heart, to be better prepared for the experiences of Holy Week this year.

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Any time spent before the Eucharistic presence, be it long or short, is the best-spent time of our lives. – ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA

LENTEN TIP

How Do We Worship the Glory of God, When It Is Hidden from Us?

Almsgiving offers a chance to serve others. If you want to see the glory of God, then look for it in those he has created. As Mother Teresa said, "Each one of them is Jesus in disguise."

Here are a few suggestions for ways to worship God as we serve others:

- Help in a soup kitchen
- Spend time with your family cleaning the basement or attic — donate "your treasure"
- Visit the homebound, elderly, ill, or imprisoned
- Participate in the Rice Bowl Project
- Collect school supplies for children in need



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Transfiguration Trivia

- 1 Although often presumed to have occurred on Mount Tabor in Israel, none of the Gospels specify where the Transfiguration actually happened.
- 2 The Transfiguration transpired while Jesus was praying.
- 3 Moses and Elijah each experienced an exodus, while Jesus was preparing to participate in the New Exodus.
- 4 The event is considered by some scholars as the culminating point of Jesus' public ministry, having its beginning in his baptism and conclusion with his ascension.

Power in Prayer and the Eucharist

St. Clare of Assisi, inspired by the preaching of St. Francis, left her aristocratic life to be devoted to Jesus as a cloistered nun. Clare is often depicted holding the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance. She knew the power of the Eucharist. Once, under attack by invading Saracens, tradition holds, she thwarted their advance by raising the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance while praying with great trust for God's protection. While doing so she comforted the other sisters in the convent with the words: "Don't be afraid. Trust in Jesus."

