

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



GENESIS 15:5 – 12, 17 – 18

PSALM 27:1, 7 – 8, 8 – 9, 13 – 14

PHILEMON 3:17 – 4:1 OR 3:20 – 4:1

LUKE 9:28B – 36

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel is called the Transfiguration. Jesus goes up on the mountain with a few of the Apostles. When he reaches the top Jesus is transfigured as if rays of light are coming out of him. His clothes are such a dazzling white that is not what we normally see on earth. Peter, John, and James see two prophets from the Old Testament standing next to Jesus. This is one of the miracles of Jesus. There is a connection to the baptism of Jesus because the Spirit of God again acknowledges Jesus as the Son of God and tells the Apostles to "listen to him" (Luke 9:35). This is a sign that Jesus is more than just merely human and a reminder that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophets of the Old Testament. The Transfiguration is such an amazing experience for the Apostles that they want to hold onto that moment forever. They want to make tents and not leave. The same can happen for us. We may go on a retreat or have some faith or life experience that is so wonderful and can't be described in words. When that happens, people call these moments "mountaintop experiences" since it is like what the Apostles experienced on the mountain. It is a moment when heaven meets earth through Jesus Christ. We too want to cling to that moment and those feelings of joy. We may even want to stay with the people we shared the experience with as a reminder of our mountaintop experience. Yet the Apostles couldn't stay on the mountaintop, nor can we. They had to go back to their lives on earth and live out their mission. Though they couldn't stay, they did not go down from the mountain unchanged. They took with them that experience of heaven and all that they learned from Jesus. They too were transformed. When they went back to their lives, they took a piece of heaven with them. When we have those mountaintop moments, let us remember that instead of getting bummed that it is over, we can let ourselves be transformed by the wonderful moment. We can bring a piece of that heaven with us and be that beautiful light of Christ to those around us. Instead of seeing an ending, focus on the light you bring forward into your life as you continue on your life path.

ACTION

Listen to a musical setting of today's Responsorial Psalm 27, "The Lord is my light and my salvation." One version is "The Lord Is My Light" by Joel Case.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- How well have you been listening to Jesus?