



28 February 2010

2nd Sunday of Lent

Year C

The Dialogue with God that Brings Out the Best in Us

This Second Sunday of Lent is like a breather in our Lenten pilgrimage which is characterized by penance and sorrow. Weak and wounded in many ways, we fix our gaze on the transfigured Christ, to derive from him the inspiration we need to undertake or continue our quest for the values of the Kingdom and the splendor

of a holy life.

Let us remember that Jesus was transfigured while he was praying. It was in his dialogue with the Father that the glory of his true self was revealed. May our participation in this Eucharistic celebration bring about the same effect in us, both as individuals and as a community.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

My heart has prompted me to seek your face; I seek it, Lord; do not hide from me.

Greeting

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!
All –And also with you!

Penitential Rite

P –With gratitude to the Lord who calls us to witness the splendor of his transfiguration, let us realize that sin is the dark cloud that obscures

the splendor of our dignity.
(Pause)

P –For the times we have behaved as enemies of your cross, Lord, have mercy!

All –Lord, have mercy!

P –For the times we have taken pride in what we should have been ashamed of, Christ, have mercy!

All –Christ, have mercy!

P –For the times we have allowed the ugliness of sin to destroy your image in us, Lord, have mercy!

All –Lord, have mercy!

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All –Amen!

Opening Prayer

P –God our Father, help us to hear your Son. Enlighten us with your word, that we may find the way to your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All –Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Gn 15:5-12.17-18

To a discouraged Abram, the Lord not only reiterates His promise of a numerous progeny, but also that of a spacious and fruitful homeland for his descendants.

R –A proclamation from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.” Abram put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from *Ur of the Chaldeans* to give you this land as a possession.” “O Lord God,” Abram asked, “how am I to know that I shall possess it?” The Lord answered him, “Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.” Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking firepot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. It was on that occasion that the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I give this land, from the *Wadi of Egypt* to the Great River, the Euphrates.”

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 27

R –*The Lord is my light and my salvation!*

R. M. Velez

The Lord is my light and my sal-
va-----tion!

* The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life’s refuge; of whom should I be afraid? **R.**

* Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me. Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. **R.**

* Your presence, O Lord, I seek. Hide not your face from me; do not in anger repel your servant. You are my helper: cast me not off. **R.**

* I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. **R.**

2nd Reading Phil 3:17-4:1

The Philippians loved Paul very much. Knowing this, Paul makes an emotional appeal which concerns also us: to live as people who are citizens of heaven, and not to follow the bad example of those who live as “enemies of the cross of Christ.”

R –A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their “shame.” Their minds are occupied with earthly things.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior: the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and

long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Verse before the Gospel

All—(*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*)

From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard: “This is my beloved Son; hear him.” (*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*)

Gospel Lk 9:28-36

The event of Jesus’ Transfiguration while he was praying and the “Voice” from the cloud were a source of joy and strength for Peter, James, and John. They should be the same for us as we recall that memorable event in the life of Jesus.

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All—Glory to you, Lord!

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying, his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his *exodus* that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from

GLOSSARY: • *Ur of the Chaldeans:* A city near the estuary of the Euphrates River, in modern-day Iraq. The Chaldeans were a tribe that settled in that region for some time. • *Wadi of Egypt:* A “wadi” (a river or brook that runs dry during the summer) in the upper part of the Sinai Peninsula and which flows into the Mediterranean Sea.

the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

All—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P—As we recall Jesus' transfiguration and renew our commitment to listen to him, let us also present our humble petitions, saying:

All—Son of the living God, hear us!

C—For the Church, the home of all believers: May she illumine mankind with the holiness of her members. Let us pray! **R.**

C—For the Holy Father and all our leaders: May they find in the Transfiguration of Jesus the strength they need to persevere in their good work. Let us pray! **R.**

C—For those who do not appreciate the importance of prayer: May the example of Jesus be for them an encouragement to raise their minds to God with love. Let us pray! **R.**

C—For all those afflicted with any kind of disease, especially influenza H1N1: May they experience our Christian concern and charity and be healed of their infirmities. Let us pray!* **R.**

C—For all priests: May they grow daily in their commitment to Christ the Good Shepherd so that they may lead with pastoral love the flock entrusted to their care. Let us pray!* **R.**

C—For all of us: May we discover anew the grace that comes from our faith in the love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and be transformed into a people with Christian morality and integrity. Let us pray!* **R.**

C—Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause) Let us pray! **R.**

P—Lord Jesus, on Mount Tabor you revealed the splendor of your divinity and filled your disciples with joy. Show us your radiant countenance in the celebration of this Eucharist, and fill us with your peace, that we may be able to serve you faithfully all the days of our life.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P—Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

P—Lord, make us holy.

May this Eucharist take away our sins that we may be prepared to celebrate the Resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of 2nd Sun. of Lent

P—Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

On your holy mountain he revealed himself in glory in the presence of his disciples. He had already prepared them for his approaching death. He wanted to teach them through the Law and the Prophets that the promised Christ had first to suffer and so come to the glory of his resurrection.

In our unending joy we echo on earth the song of the angels in heaven as they praise your glory for ever:

All—Holy, holy, holy . . .

Acclamation

P—Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All—When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P—Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P—This is the Lord Jesus who will make us share in the glory of the Resurrection. He is the Lamb of God who

GLOSSARY: •**Exodus:** This word, literally, means "departure" and is reminiscent of the "departure" of the Israelites from Egypt, the land where they had been enslaved. In this context, it means the events of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, through which he would depart from this life and return to the Father. These same events would bring about the "exodus" of mankind from the enslavement of sin to the promised land of God's grace and freedom.

takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All—Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him.

N.B. *After Communion, we pray the "Prayer for the Year of the Two Hearts."*

Prayer after Communion

P –Lord, we give thanks for these holy mysteries, which bring to us here on earth a share in the life to come, through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITE



P –The Lord be with you.

All—And also with you!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. *(Pause)*

May the Lord dispel from your hearts the darkness of sin and discouragement.

All—Amen!

P –You rejoice in the splendor of the Transfiguration. May the Lord fill with His light all the days of your life.

All—Amen!

P –May He strengthen your faith with proofs of His love, so that you will persevere in good works.

All—Amen!

P –And may almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P –Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God!

The Transforming Power of Prayer

Prayer meant so much to Jesus. It was an essential dimension of his life. The Gospels contain numerous references to Jesus' praying in seclusion or waking up before everybody else to pray in some quiet place. Every prayerful encounter with his Father brought out the best in Jesus. Three of his disciples – Peter, James and John – witnessed this outpouring of the best in their Master in the episode we call the "Transfiguration." That was an unforgettable visible manifestation of the transforming power which prayer had on Jesus as a human being.

There are good reasons to believe that such a "transformation" did not take place only on that occasion. It is much more probable, instead, that Jesus was transfigured every time he prayed. The only difference, on Mount Tabor, was that the event had eyewitnesses who could just marvel and rejoice in what they were seeing.

There was a time, however, in the earthly life of Jesus, on another mountain – the Mount of Olives! – when the loving dialogue of prayer turned into a monologue of distress. The usual "Partner" – the Father – seemed absent. He appeared to have turned a deaf ear to what Jesus was saying. Nor did He talk to His pleading Son. It was as if God had "hidden His face" from Jesus.

Fortunately, on that occasion, too, Jesus closed his conversation in the way he had taught his disciples to pray: "Your will be done!" Then an angel appeared to console him in his distress. That, too, produced in him a transfiguration of sorts. The presence of the angel said that prayer had "worked." Jesus' Partner had been listening, after all. His full answer would come at the Resurrection, the "permanent transfiguration," which Jesus has been enjoying ever since and which he will enjoy for ever.

Of that "eternal transfiguration," the transfiguration undergone by Jesus on Mount Tabor was only a preview. It was a "foretaste," meant to tell the astonished disciples to set their hearts on what really matters: their relationship with God, their filial conversation with Him.

Such is also the lesson for us, as we reflect on the transfiguration of Jesus while he was at prayer. *(See Lk 9:29.)* If we understand this point clearly, prayer will never be "boring" or "routine" or a monotonous "monologue." It may happen that we, too, find ourselves praying fervently, crying our hearts out, apparently to no effect, for God seems not to be listening In such situations the temptation is great to conclude that God does not care anymore about us But we know that God is always there. He is always listening even when we can't see Him and we can't hear His voice, there and then. His answer will come at the proper time – in *His* time – which is always the best time.

LENT: JOURNEY TO A FULLER LIFE

Lent is not a season of fruitless mourning over an irredeemable past characterized by sin and failure, but **a time for self-evaluation and discernment, a time for prayer, and a time for action.**

As such, Lent will necessarily include a reflection on the futility of an aimless and sinful life. It will also include a sincere meditation on the sufferings which Jesus endured because of the sins of mankind . . . because of *our* sins.

The fundamental goal of Lent is to make us more Christ-like.

This can be achieved by keeping two complementary resolutions:

- turning away from sin,** and
- commitment to doing good.**

Our basic orientation, then, must be a positive one: **a yearning for a fuller life of faith, hope, and love – a life spent in the service of God and neighbor.**



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