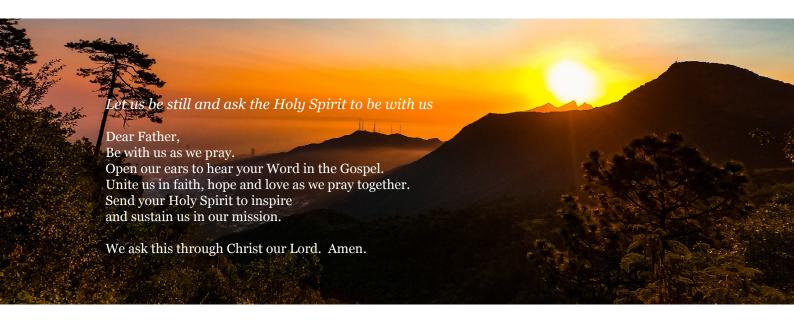
Formed in Prayer





Gospel Mk 9: 2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading? What might God be saying to you in and through the Gospel?

Reflection

We can only imagine being present for this extraordinary revelation of Jesus as the Christ. Jesus has invited three of his closest companions, Peter, James and John, for a high mountain top experience – a time to be alone and together in prayer. The mountain top experience engulfs them in a maelstrom of emotions including privilege, intimacy, wonder and awe, fear and perplexion. In this sacred place of transformation, God's Word, revealed in the Law and the Prophets, is now revealed in the person of the transfigured Christ.

As leaders we can imitate Jesus by regularly inviting our closest collaborators to come away for time for fellowship and prayer, where God's Word can be heard anew and where the person of Jesus, in his humanity and divinity, can be encountered as the Beloved Son of God. Leaders guide those entrusted to them to climb to and back from sacred places to live life, with hearts transformed, back on the plain, in the extraordinary of everyday life.

How blessed are we to walk with Christ in friendship, to be invited to encounter him in new ways. This Lent, let's pray for a daily conversion of heart, to know the risen Christ more fully and so ourselves. (*Greg Wilson, CSYMA*)

Beloved Son of God,

How blessed we are to walk with you. Help us to listen to you. Be our guide on our Lenten journey to Easter So that transformed in heart and mind and soul, we might encounter your glory as the Risen Christ. Amen.