

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 27, 2022

“the appearance of his face was altered....” (Luke 9:29)

Today we remember the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. These epiphanies, these special moments of revelation when the veil is pulled back and divine things become real to us, are not our making. Rather, they come as an unexpected and undeserved gift from God.

On the mountain, Jesus’ face changed, and his clothes flashed like lightning. Moses and Elijah were talking with him. A cloud covered them and they were overcome with awe. A voice said, “This is my Son, my chosen one, listen to him!” Then the astonished disciples got up and followed Jesus back down to the valley and resumed their work. But they resumed their work with a different sense. They thought they knew Jesus, but they really didn’t. They were astonished, confused, and maybe even repelled by some of his sermons. They had seen him perform miracles, yet, they knew little about his true identity and mission.

Through the transfiguration, the disciples discover Jesus is considerably more than a wise teacher or a great preacher. This man the disciples walked with was God’s very Son, Immanuel, God present with us.

The Transfiguration is a revelation for the disciples. Not only is it revealed Jesus is God’s Son, but also the peculiar way in which Jesus Christ is God with us. This Sunday is not only the end of the church season of Epiphany but the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is coming when we will gather, confess our sin, have ashes imposed upon our foreheads, and begin a forty-day walk with Jesus to the cross. But for one brief moment, the veil is pulled back, and we see. The Transfiguration is a moment for us to admit that our faith is utterly dependent upon God. This only comes to us as a gift. And the beautiful thing is, it does come!

Maybe you have not received as many mystical, revealing, epiphanic moments as you would like. Some of you are still waiting for that God-given moment when your fears will be taken away, your faith will be confirmed and strengthened, and you will see and believe. Today’s scripture gives us a promise: keep walking with Jesus, whether he takes you up the mountain or down the valley. Keep listening and walking with him, no matter where he goes. God will be with you.

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