

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 2022.**  
**THE MOUNTAINS EXPERIENCE:**

Last Sunday we were treated to the **desert experience**, where Jesus started with 40 days of prayer and fasting (in preparation for temptation before starting His public ministry). We could say it was a call to the desert that gave us the tools we need for this Lenten period of ***prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.***

Today we have yet another important experience which is the **mountain experience**. In the Scriptures mountains are very special and used to establish a close personal relationship with God. From Abraham to Moses and Elijah, Jesus and most of the prophets are associated with a great experience on a mountain in meeting God.

Abraham met God on **Mount Horeb**, Moses met God on **Mount Sinai** which we might classify as the **mountain of Morality**, **Mt. Carmel** may be classified as the **mountain of Decision**, **Mt. Gilbroa** as the **mountain of transition and change**, **The Mountain of the Beatitudes** as the **mountain of discipleship**, **Mt. Olive** as the **Mountain of suffering**, **Mt. Calvert** as the **Mountain of Redemption**, and then the **mountain of commissioning (where Jesus called on his followers to make disciples of and baptize all nations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) which is not mentioned!** Might this be our very mountain today that we have been called and sent to?

Today we are treated to Mt. Tabor the mountain of the ***Transfiguration.*** On all of these mountains and in all of these stories from Scripture we experience God's presence to His messengers - us. They all bring prayer, perspective, and vision.

In our first reading we are told of God's promise to Abraham that He will be the father of many, and God kept his promise. This promise is

evident and present running through Scripture always. We too are called to keep our promise to our Lord God the Creator. If we are sincere God will never abandon us, staying with us in all moments...in all challenges, in all joyful moments, and in all difficult moments...and even when we experience times of doubt. **“I am with you till the end of time”**.

This very covenant (at Mt. Horeb) led to the covenant at Mt. Sinai and culminated in the eternal covenant sealed by Jesus on Mt. Calvary. What about our covenant with God in Baptism, Matrimony, and our vocations? Do we adhere to them always? This is our reflection and the call for us today.

In the Gospel reading today Jesus makes a three-fold disclosure on the mountain of the Transfiguration (Mt. Tabor)... that the **Messiah must suffer, and His disciples must be prepared to share and enter into His Glory**. This is what is manifested in the Transfiguration.

There is a great contrast between Mt. Tabor (the mountain of the Transfiguration) and Mt. Calvary (the mountain where Jesus suffered during the Crucifixion)...yet there is a great connection to the history of our salvation today.

With Mt. Tabor, the sky was bright, Jesus was praying, His face shone, His clothes were dazzling white, Moses and Elijah stood on each side of Him as great men, a cloud overshadowed them and the voice from the cloud was heard, **“This is my Son, the chosen one, listen to Him.”** The three disciples were treated to this short experience which led Peter to proclaim, **“It is good for us to be here, if you wish let me construct three tents, one for Moses, another for Elijah, and another for you.”**

Obviously Peter wanted to stay in that safe mode away from trouble and danger that they had left down below. He wanted the security of

this comfort zone, thus missing the point that the Transfiguration was meant to strengthen them on what would happen next in the following days (reference to: **that the Messiah must suffer, and His disciples must be prepared to share and enter into His Glory**).

For it would be on the next mountain, Mt. Calvary, that the beautiful face of Jesus that had shone during the Transfiguration would be covered with sweat and blood...there that His clothes would no longer be dazzling white but instead taken away from Him...His companions this time would not be Moses and Elijah but instead two criminals...there that there would be no affirming voice from the father above in a cloud but instead the sound of scoffers and mockers saying "**crucify him,crucify him.**"...What a contradiction between these two mountains that is so vital for us.

In our lives don't we have our own Transfiguration take place in us? ***Don't we find ourselves on a hill filled with joyful exaltations, feeling the warmth of and glow of beautiful light and the sound of gentle whispering voices in our hearts (You are My beloved daughter/son whom I love)? We are reassured through Christ's strength and given confidence.***

Yet we also have Calvary moments in us, times when we are filled with ***sorrows, difficulties, challenges, pain and darkness, like Jesus we too might feel that God has abandoned us...*** yet His ***promise is there, "I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS."*** It is in these moments that we are called to do what Jesus did by **turning to God in prayer and committing ourselves to Him**. The road of suffering is narrow and difficult, but on it God's bright light will shine upon us leading our way to Calvary, where we know **it doesn't end, but that we will share in Easter Glory**.

**Today** we are called to Mt. Tabor to go beyond the scope, past the limit of our vision, and to see the Glory of God. We have only to open our

eyes, ears, minds and hearts to hear that voice again, ***“This is my son listen to Him”***.

***At this time we pray for the people in the Ukraine undergoing the hardships and sufferings of a created Mt. Calvary...***