



Sunday 15th February 2026

The Sunday next before Lent

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17.1-9

The Transfiguration

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Other Readings: Exodus 24.12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1.16-21

Homily

On the mountain, something extraordinary happens. Jesus is transfigured before his friends: his face shines like the sun, his clothes become dazzling white, and for a moment, heaven and earth seem to overlap. Yet, it is important to notice what has *not* happened. Jesus has not become someone new or been changed into something other than himself. Rather, he is revealed for who he has always been.

The change is not in Jesus, but in the disciples.

What they experience on the mountain is a transformation of their perception. The veil is lifted. The hidden glory is disclosed. The One they have been following through dusty roads, misunderstandings, fatigue, and growing opposition, is shown to be God's beloved Son, radiant with divine life.

This matters because for many of us, faith is often less about sudden change and more about gradual seeing. We walk for a long time with partial understanding. We follow faithfully, but imperfectly. We stumble, question, and grow tired. And then, sometimes unexpectedly, we are given a glimpse, a moment of clarity, or deep assurance, that reminds us who Christ truly is, and why we are still walking.

Thomas Aquinas reflects that the path of faith can at times be arduous, marked by setbacks, suffering, disappointment, and anxiety. Those who walk it, therefore, need some sense of the person who walks beside and ahead of them, and that they are being led by God. The disciples are about to descend the mountain into confusion, betrayal, and loss. They will soon follow a Lord they can no longer see. This moment is not an escape from the road ahead, but a gift *for* it: it is a glimpse of glory to sustain them as they continue on The Way.

The voice from the cloud simply says, “Listen to him.” From this we learn that God’s glory is to be heeded; and the transformation that matters is not about clinging tightly to the moment and to worldly signs, but rather, allowing it to shape how we listen to the divine Jesus, how we trust in God, and how we keep walking towards the Kingdom.

Listening to Jesus is an active process. It means allowing his words, his way of love, his faithfulness in the face of rejection and abandonment, to continue reshaping us, even when we feel tired, even when hope feels thin, even when the journey seems longer and bumpier than we expected. This is the path of discipleship.

The figures on the mountain remind us that this journey is often demanding. Moses, the liberator and law-giver, knew wilderness and frustration. Elijah, the great prophet, knew fear and exhaustion. Peter, who loved Jesus so deeply, would also deny him. James would be mocked and condemned for his faith. John would remain bearing witness – did he sometimes feel like the last man standing? We are promised that faithful discipleship will be sustained by God’s faithfulness in us.

And so this Gospel speaks hope to us; not of shallow optimism, but that which is deeply rooted in who Christ is. The same Jesus revealed in glory is the Jesus who walks with us now. The same voice that says “Listen to him” continues to speak, even when the path feels uncertain. We are not asked to create glory, but to witness it as it is revealed, again and again, in quiet faithfulness, in love that endures, and in lives slowly being transformed.

As we come down the mountain with the disciples, we do not leave glory behind. We carry its memory with us, a memory that frees us from clinging to nostalgia of the past, and instead to walk forward with trust. We keep listening - allowing the conversation of prayer and fellowship to hear God more clearly; we keep going - revealing the Glory of God for ourselves and others through the stories of Jesus, in the power of the Spirit; and in doing so, we ourselves are changed, transformed through God’s glorious Spirit, as God’s kingdom continues to unfold among us.

Conversation Questions

1. Where do we recognise ourselves in the disciples’ experience of seeing, fearing, and being reassured by Jesus?
2. What helps us to keep listening to Jesus when the journey feels long or tiring?

3. How might we notice and bear witness to God's glory already being revealed in our everyday lives?
4. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you? What is it?
5. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, responding to what you have heard today and listening to what God might be saying to you.

Collect of the day

*Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

(or)

*Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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