

Transfiguration of the Lord



Christ in Our Neighborhood For Group Reflection

Prayer

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Commentary

1st Reading: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14

Christology is the study of Christ which helps us understand who Jesus is.

Christology draws on the life of Jesus in the New Testament. It also finds helpful the prophetic voices found in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Daniel, one of the four major prophets in the Old Testament, gives a vivid description written in the 2nd century B.C., of not only God as Creator of the universe but also “the Son of Man.” It is a description which foretells Jesus coming to Earth.

There is a distinct similarity between this reading and the description in our Gospel account where Jesus’ face shines like the sun and His garments are white as light.

The Transfiguration reveals Jesus in His earthly existence as the Son of Man.

Question

How do I understand who Jesus really is?

Do I only know Him from the Gospels, or do I reflect on Christ from all of Scripture?

Commentary

2nd Reading: 2 Pet: 1:16-19

If we lived 50 – 60 years after Jesus’ Ascension, when the early Church was first blossoming, we might have been confused too.

There were no written Gospel accounts that people could study. The Church was still growing by word of mouth.

While the disciples of Jesus were busy sharing the good news, other false prophets were also taking advantage, or sharing their spin, on this new movement. Many tried to explain away the prophetic books by claiming they

were based solely on myths.

Here Peter sets the record straight. As an actual witness to the Transfiguration, Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, would give the true version of events that had been reported incorrectly.

Although fear loomed for many who wanted to believe the disciples, Peter reaffirms their mission to be “a lamp shining in a dark place.”

Question

What keeps me from being “a lamp shining” for Jesus?

Our Celebration on the Feast of the Transfiguration always falls on August 6. This year, the feast lands on a Sunday and, because of its Solemn nature, takes precedence over the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Readings

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 97
2nd Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9

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Commentary

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9

In Christology, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting high on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.

Elijah represents the Prophets, Moses represents the Law, which at the time any faithful Hebrew boy would have learned this from his elders. Perhaps this understanding prompted Peter's offer to make three tents.

Initially it is clear that Peter misses the point by considering Elijah and Moses equal to Jesus as well as his desire to make the extraordinary moment last; hence the three tents.

However, the voice from God above startles Peter, James and John as he commands them to "listen to Him" Jesus -- the fulfillment of the Prophet and the Law.

Question

Have we at times been like Peter and "missed the point" of the nature and mission of Jesus Christ; particularly when we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist or in the Sacraments?

This Week's Task

Pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary this week.

Pope St. John Paul II encouraged us to bridge the Joyful and Sorrowful mysteries of the rosary in order not to exclude the mission of Jesus beginning with His the baptism in the Jordan.

As with the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries, the Luminous include five decades. They are:

- 1) Baptism at the Jordan
- 2) Miracle at the Wedding in Cana
- 3) The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- 4) The Transfiguration
- 5) The Last Supper

Ritual Prayer

The following prayer is said together:

At the Transfiguration, Father,
You showed Jesus in glory,
a glimpse of what His disciples
would see in His risen life.

Bless us in our humanity,
with an awareness of Your presence,
leading us to share in Your divine life
even in our daily struggle.

Help us to deepen our knowledge
of the Law and the Prophets,
channels of Your grace throughout history,
and signposts for our journey.

Amen.

The prayer continues with Psalm 97

Psalm

Response: The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

R. The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.

R. The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.

R. The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Conclude with an OUR FATHER