



## Second Sunday Of Lent

### The Transfiguration: No Shortcut To Glory

#### Introduction

In today's liturgy we celebrate the mystery of Christ's transfiguration on Mount Tabor. It was a wonderful experience for the three apostles who witnessed it, so much so that Peter cried out: "Lord, it is good for us to be here". It is surely good for us to be here this morning – to draw close to one another and to Christ. Here our lowly and often humdrum lives are filled with meaning, light, and hope.

#### First Reading (Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18)

This reading shows how complete was Abraham's obedience to God. He was even ready to sacrifice his son Isaac if God so wished it.

#### Second Reading (Romans 8:31-34)

God the Father has shown his love for us by giving up his Son to death for our sake.

#### Gospel (Mark 9:2-10)

Jesus is transfigured before the eyes of three of his apostles on Mount Tabor. This glimpse of his glory was meant to sustain their faith in him during his passion and death.

#### Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that in our efforts to follow Christ we may never drop out of the race or seek false shortcuts.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who follow Christ: that they may never choose the cheap and passing things, and so let go of the things that last for ever. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our leaders: that they may never take the easy way and so abandon the right way. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



For those who are finding life difficult through hardship, illness, or death, that the Lord may change their sorrow into joy. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may never forget that sweat is the price of all great things, and that without the cross there can be no crown. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

### Communion Reflection

Jesus loved hills and mountains.

We read in the gospels

how he often went into the hills to pray.

He preached his most famous sermon from a hilltop.

He was transfigured on Mount Tabor,

he died on Mount Calvary,

and ascended from Mount Olivet.

He was after a manner of speaking,

a mountain man.

Why was this?

Was it because heights caused the spirit to soar?

Down in the valley

we often can't see the wood for the trees.

We can't see the pattern of our lives.

But the hilltop restores our vision,

and we find our way again.

A problem which down below seems like an elephant,

from up here seems no bigger than an ant.

Lord, we all need the view from the hilltop.

It is indeed good for us.

For then, even though we may have to walk

through valleys of darkness,

we will fear no evil,

for we will know that you are with us there too,

to guide us, to give us comfort,

and to transfigure our lowly lives.