

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent A



### *The Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9*

*His face shone like the sun.*

O Christ,  
give us a glimpse.

Let us find you shining  
in silver echoes from the moon,  
in the morning and,  
in the evening sky,

in the spider's  
intricate  
web.

In  
workers, farmers,  
refugees, immigrants  
and the homeless.

Let no one and no place  
ever be hidden from

the glow of your  
Godly, earthly  
presence.

Let us find your glory  
in all things

### *1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a*

*All the communities of the earth will find blessing in you*

When Abraham left his father's house.  
Everything he had ever been  
turned into a journey to the unknown.

And God made him a blessing.  
Which became a grace  
for all ages.

Lord,  
with blessing  
in all we do, in each and



fill us too  
wherever we go—  
every moment of our life.

## *2<sup>nd</sup> READING 2 Timothy 1:8b-10*

*Bear your share of hardship for the gospel  
with the strength that comes from God.*

O Lord, pour grace into us  
from the bosom of  
your love,  
so that  
we can bear  
our share of the  
gospel hardships that you  
in your goodness  
suffer  
with us.

(Annie Osdieck – Adapted)

## **REFLECTION:**

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

The thrilling fact is, this Jesus who speaks to you is not a character out of a dead past. . . .

Listening to Scripture in the liturgy is not the same as reading Augustine's Confessions. .

not the same as hearing a Shakespeare sonnet or Handel's Messiah. When the New Testament is read to you, Jesus himself speaks to you. Now. Here is the risen Christ, incomparably alive, opening up to you the

meaning of what you are hearing, as he did to the desolate disciples on the road to Emmaus. And as you listen, you too can exclaim as they exclaimed:

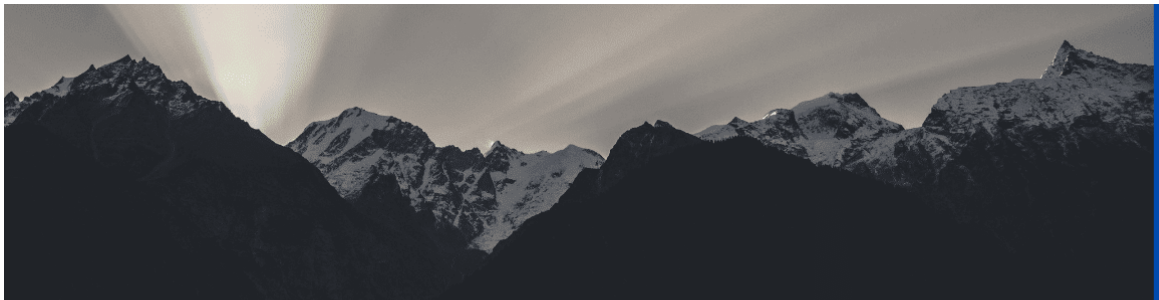


Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us . . . while he opened to us the scriptures?” (Lk 24:32). But for that, your hearts have to be open. You have to say, with Samuel of old, “Speak, Lord, for thy servant is listening” (1 Sam 3:9, 10).

But again, there is something distinctive here. Listening to Jesus is not the same as listening to others. The same intensity, yes, the same openness; but a greater risk. When the Father told Peter, James, and John “Listen to him,” he was saying “Obey him; do what he tells you; follow him.” To listen to Jesus is to be his disciple, to listen the way Abraham listened to the Lord and left his “country and kindred and [his] father’s house” (Gen 12:1-4). Is this how you let Scripture speak to you? Are you saying “Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth,” or do you really mean, as the [Christian] ethicist Paul Ramsey rephrased it, “Speak, Lord, and thy servant will think it over”?

If you really listen to Jesus in the proclaimed word, you have a fair chance of hearing him in your everyday life. Not a vision, I assure you, but Jesus speaking in your heart as truly as anyone you love profoundly speaks to your heart.

Fr. Walter J. Burghardt S.J., ***Sir, We Would Like to See Jesus***



### **A final thought from Pope Francis on the Transfiguration:**

We too are called to climb up the mountain, to contemplate the beauty of the Risen One that enkindles glimmers of light in every fragment of our life and helps us to interpret history beginning with the paschal victory.

.... We cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the bliss of this encounter on our own. Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, among our brothers and sisters and into daily life. ... Going up the mountain does not mean forgetting reality. ...

We are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people’s hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian. [Pope Francis Angelus 2nd Sun of Lent Feb 28, 2021](#)

