

Second Sunday of Lent | Transfiguration | Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 | Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 | Rom 8:31b-34 | Mk 9:2-10

Lent is a journey; a journey with the Lord towards Easter. However, on the road that leads to the morning of the Resurrection, Jesus makes a few stops.

Last Sunday, it was in the Jordan, then in the desert, and then in Galilee, where He said something very important, “This is the time of fulfillment. Repent! Believe in the Gospel!” which is Himself.

Today, the place where He stops is on the top of a mountain: Mount Tabor, where before Peter, James, and John, the pillars of the Church; He meets the two pillars of the Old Testament, who also each had an experience with the Father on a mountain. Moses, who represents the Law, experienced the presence of God on Mount Sinai - and Elijah, the representative of the Prophets, experienced the presence of God through a breeze on Mount Horeb. Why were they there? What were they talking about?

Saint Mark says nothing about that. But in chapter 9 of his Gospel, Saint Luke clearly tells us that they were there to “talk with Jesus about His passion”, that out of love for all, His Father did not spare Him. He gave Him up, (2nd Reading). That he is the true Isaac, the true lamb of the sacrifice about whom Abraham said, “God will provide” (1st Reading).

But they were also there because the Lord had something to say to the whole Church through Peter, James, and John: “The Law was not all my Word, nor were the Prophets. But this One, yes. He is my

ultimate Word, and I have no more Words to give you. Therefore, you need to listen to Him.”

What happened on Mount Tabor was not the summit of Revelation. It was just a kind of snack. Yes, from afar, with the telescope of faith - which Peter proclaimed six days before, on behalf of the College of the Apostles and the whole Church, Jesus wanted them to gaze upon the glory of the Resurrection.

So Mount Tabor, as you may know, is a “high place.” It really is. But it’s a place from which Jesus was going to leave to go to another even higher place: the Upper Room where, for the very first time in history, the Holy Mass was going to be celebrated. And where, aligning Himself to the will of the Father, Jesus was going to willingly give His life up, “Take this, all of you, and eat of it! Take this and drink from it! This is not a symbol but my Body, given up for you! This is my Blood poured out for you!” Ever since then, there has been no higher place on earth than where the Eucharist is celebrated, a place of particular grace that enlightens and illuminates our life so that it can bear fruit.

St. Mark goes on to say that at a certain point during the episode, “Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.” This is exactly what we experience at each Eucharist, when everyone – all the Saints, even St. Joseph, even the Virgin Mary, fade away at the Consecration before Jesus, who is really there, present, to give us life.

It's the same light that irradiates and transfigures us, and which the Lord calls us to live out in thanksgiving at the summit of **the** Mt.

Tabors which mark our lives: the day of our Baptism, or our 1st Communion, or Confirmation, or our first encounter with our future husband or wife (our date), or our marriage, or our diaconal or priestly ordination, or during the birth of a child, during a pilgrimage, a retreat, a celebration, or during the exercise of our job, - so many graces which have accompanied us and which will accompany us on the path of life.

It's this same light that irradiates and transfigures us each time the Lord, takes us with Him, like Peter, James, and John, on His Mount Tabor, which is His Church, to nourish us with His Body and His Blood.

However, in descending this Mount Tabor, which is the end of the Mass, the Lord doesn't "charge us not to relate what we had experienced to anyone." What He tells us is: "Go! Go, make a difference! Go in my peace to be for others, what I have just been for you. Be the Eucharist for others."

This is our mission today. We must go and reach out to others to help them move on from a life disfigured by jealousy, lust, sin, drugs, doubt, rejection, despair, hatred, selfishness, exclusion, or whatever to a life shining with love, freedom, peace, benevolence, hope, and joy.

But none of this will be possible if we don't listen to God's beloved Son. Therefore, today, **if you listen to His voice, harden not your hearts.**