

Second Sunday of Lent – 2022 C

*“The cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud the Father’s voice was heard.”* In a time in our world when we are overshadowed with suffering, war and violence, fragmented relationships and fears, we come together to hear God’s Word spoken to us in that darkness. All the more when human answers fail do we hear this voice in hope, a Word that points to God still present amid the problems of today, appealing to us: “This is my Chosen Son; listen to Him.”

Though transfigured, Jesus did not become something He was not before. He was simply revealed for a moment in the fullness of His identity: the fulfillment of the promises of Law and Prophets, the same Lord both Moses and Elijah had looked upon, the Light of the World and Son of God. ***His glory was always there ... hidden but not lost, present though unseen.*** What a contrast between this vision of the dazzling Lord of the universe and the wounded and dying Jesus on the Cross! So overcome were the Apostles by that Cross that they hid in fear, frightened ***both*** by the glory of Jesus and the sufferings of Jesus. What was intended to reassure them ended up only overwhelming and confusing them; and ***how God is at work in our troubled world can still do the same for us.*** Lent also reveals to us some things about ourselves that we might not otherwise know, as we strive to be more like Jesus. It is good for us to be here to catch a glimpse in faith of glory; but in the clouds and gloom, our future can seem dim and uncertain. Only later did the Apostles remember and understand that ***the suffering and death He would undergo were not the DEFEAT of His mission, but the very FULFILLMENT of that mission.***

These are easy words to say; but as bullets fly, bombs fall, loved ones suffer, and the future continues to loom in uncertainty, they can sound empty and maybe even hurtful. We are surrounded by things that

distract, confuse, divide, shock and trouble us deeply, and the problems and sufferings can seem like the only things that are real.

Today, we will take a few moments of silent prayer to name in your own spirit those things that cloud your vision of Jesus. They may be doubts, worries, fears, disappointments. They may be unanswered questions or events that seem to have no positive purpose. They may be things all of us lament in our world, or things known only to you and God.

As we do this, we join those first disciples to experience Jesus Whom we cannot always see or understand clearly, but Whom we still trust. The Transfiguration happened once in time, but the invitation is as fresh today as then: ***“This is My Son, my Chosen One ... listen to Him.”*** For not only in glory and bliss, but also from the clouds and gloom, the Voice of God is heard, revealed in Jesus, the Light of the World Who shines in our darkness. To each of us, today, He has something He wants to say, and something He wants to accomplish through us. ***With minds and hearts stilled in confidence that Christ is in our midst, perhaps close your eyes or focus on the Tabernacle or the Cross, and let us listen now to Him.***