

God-given growth

Notes on the Bible readings

- In the Gospel reading, three of the disciples go up a mountain with Jesus and are witnesses to a revelation of divinity. They participate in a powerful encounter which anticipates Jesus' resurrection. This makes some sense of Jesus' instruction not to speak about what they have seen; they need to live through the Easter events in order to understand what has happened.
- There is much here that echoes Old Testament scenes, not least the ascent up a holy mountain. In Exodus, Moses climbs Mount Sinai and experiences the glory of the Lord. The mountain top is clearly a place of divine encounter.
- The appearance of Moses and Elijah prompts a very human response from Peter when he offers to construct three dwelling places for them and Jesus. But his practicality is brought to a standstill by the voice of God the Father, which causes him and the other disciples to fall to the floor, overcome with fear.
- At the heart of today's transfiguration narrative is a moment where God speaks of his love for his Son and tells the disciples to listen to him. For the disciples, the voice of God is terrifying, but Jesus' touch and words of comfort brings them reassurance and reduces their fear. We are called to consider the 'mountain-top' experiences in our journey of faith, as well as the experience of simple words or touch in our lives today, when we can glimpse God.

For reflection and comment linking this week's Bible reading to the news, current issues and events, go to www.rootsontheweb.com and click on PostScript.



Questions for reflection

- ▶ What is the first thing you notice about this painting?
- ▶ How does it feel if you only get a glimpse of something?
- ▶ When have you experienced a moment where you have glimpsed God/something of God?



A prayer of approach

*Glorious God,
our earthly pilgrimage has brought us to this place today.
We have taken different routes, seen different sights,
but together we bring our hearts' desires to you
for you to transfigure and bless –
in Jesus' name. Amen.*

A prayer for others

*May they know your affirming presence,
Gracious God,
we pray for those whose lives have taken them to places of regret.
We pray for those whose disappointments have taken them to
places of despair.
We pray for those whose experiences of betrayal have taken
them to places of loneliness.
We pray for ourselves where experiences have left us
sad and demoralized.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

A personal prayer

*God of my life's journey,
of the ups and downs, of the highs and the lows:
when my footsteps take me to the mountain tops,
may I immerse myself in your mystery,
and turn my face towards your glory,
so that when the valley calls and my world goes dark,
I may be enabled to dig deep
and call upon the richness of that encounter
and stay strong, even through doubt and fear and aching. Amen.*

Live your faith

Look for an action, however small, that might transform someone's life, even for a moment. You may find it transforms you too!