

**Homily > Lent II ©, March 16, 2025.**

### **Embracing Transformation in Christ**

We are encountering a powerful theme today through the readings that resonates deeply with our Lenten journey, transformation. We are invited to experience a metamorphosis - a change that comes from the Holy Spirit, transforming us and renewing our lives. As we walk through Lent, we are called to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, so that our lives reflect the glory and grace of the transfigured Christ.

In the first reading, we encounter Abram, a pagan patriarch, who is transformed by the call of the one true God. Abram's obedience and faith in God lead to a profound change—not only in his name, which is transformed into Abraham, but also in his entire identity. God enters into a covenant with Abraham, promising that his descendants will be a great nation. This covenant is a symbol of God's transforming power and His desire to bring us into a deeper relationship with Him. Just as Abraham's faith in God led to his transformation, our faith can lead us to be transformed into the image of Christ.

The Responsorial Psalm today (Psalm 27) gives us a clear message of hope and faith. Faith is a transforming force in our lives. It allows us to look beyond our present struggles and see the glory of God waiting for us in the future. This psalm encourages us to trust in God's plan and have confidence in His promises.

In the second reading, St. Paul writes to the Philippians, emphasizing that it is not through the observance of laws or rituals that we are transformed, but through a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

In today's Gospel, we witness the profound moment of the Transfiguration, where Jesus' true divine nature is revealed to Peter, James, and John. On the mountain, Jesus shines in radiant glory, and the Heavenly Voice proclaims, "This is my chosen Son, listen to Him." This moment reveals the divine glory of Jesus and offers a glimpse of the glory that awaits us if we remain faithful to God's will. The Transfiguration is not only a revelation of Christ's divinity, but also a call to the disciples to embrace the cross, even in times of difficulty. The experience strengthens them, preparing them for the trials to come.

The readings also invite us to reflect on the transformative power of the Holy Mass. In every Mass, we participate in a sacred moment of transformation. The bread and wine offered on the altar are transfigured into the Body and Blood of Christ, in the strict terms it is called *transubstantiation*. Just as the apostles were strengthened by Jesus' Transfiguration, we are nourished and transformed by the Eucharist. The Mass is our source of heavenly strength - a place where we encounter Christ and are empowered to live our lives with renewed faith.

So also the other sacraments are channels of transformation in our lives. For example, in Baptism, we are transformed into sons and daughters of God and heirs of Heaven. In Confirmation, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as Disciples of Christ. And in the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, we are brought back into the path of holiness, experiencing God's mercy and grace. Each sacrament is a moment of profound transformation, bringing us closer to the image of Christ.

In moments of doubt or despair, the Transfiguration offers us hope and encouragement. Just as the apostles saw Jesus' glory on the mountain, we too are called to look forward to the glory that awaits us in Heaven. We are reminded of God's love and His desire to transform us into His image. As we journey through Lent, we are invited to listen to the voice of God, saying, "This is my chosen Son, listen to Him." Our faith in Christ will carry us through moments of trial, and we trust that, one day, we too will share in His eternal glory.

Finally, just as Peter, James, and John experienced the glory of the Lord on the mountain, we are invited to seek out our own mountain-top experiences, especially during Lent. These are moments of deep prayer, reflection, and fasting that help us store up spiritual energy for the journey ahead. By drawing near to God in these sacred moments, we experience a spiritual transformation that lifts our hearts and minds above the distractions of daily life.

Dear brothers and sisters, Lent is a time for transformation. Just as Abram was transformed by faith, and just as Jesus was transfigured before His disciples, we too are called to undergo a spiritual metamorphosis. Through the Holy Mass, the sacraments, and our Lenten practices, we open ourselves to the transformative power of God's grace. Let us pray that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we may radiate the glory of Christ to all those around us, becoming true disciples who reflect His love, mercy, and hope.