

The Church celebrates the Transfiguration of Jesus, pointing to a moment of glory when Jesus and his disciples are on a mountain top in prayer. It is meant to remind us of the prophets and when Moses spoke to God on the mountain when he received the gift of the law, leading the people through the desert. In the Gospel of Luke, God speaks in the cloud, speaking not to Jesus, as God spoke to him at his baptism, but to Peter, John, and James, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him.” Follow him.



Luke wants to be sure we know that Jesus was praying and in relationship with God. Luke describes Moses and Elijah as being with Jesus in this dazzling light and that they are speaking of his “departure” which is the word used for “exodus.” Luke is making explicit the connection of Jesus with the prophets, the gift of the Law and the journey which leads the people out of bondage into freedom. When Jesus comes down the mountain he will turn toward Jerusalem and lead the people into new life through his death and resurrection. The disciples do not understand, and Jesus tells them to be silent about what has transpired. Are they silent because they do not talk about this moment of entering into this relationship with God and Jesus? Or does Luke want us to know that it is not until they see the resurrection that they will be able to understand?

Raphael, 1520

The Bible narrative, however, continues with a healing story—again emphasizing Jesus’ relationship to God through prayer. A child, a beloved son of his father, is ill, and the disciples cannot heal him. (It was believed at the time that demons caused epilepsy.) Jesus wonders at their inability heal and asks the father to bring him the child. He heals the boy and returns him to his father. Healing restores relationship, and in this case mirrors the love of the father for his son. Jesus longs for his disciples to heal the children and return them to their parents—because he will not always be with them

We celebrate the Transfiguration remembering the gift of God’s Son and his gift of Love; God’s love is not fulfilled until Jesus has walked into Jerusalem, is betrayed, and dies on the cross. God’s “glory” is fulfilled in the resurrection and we are healed.

Today we wonder, how are we bringing healing to all of God’s people? Can we restore the children to their parents with prayer and action, knowing we are in relationship with God through the power of the risen Christ?

Who will we pray for today? How will we pray during Lent?

