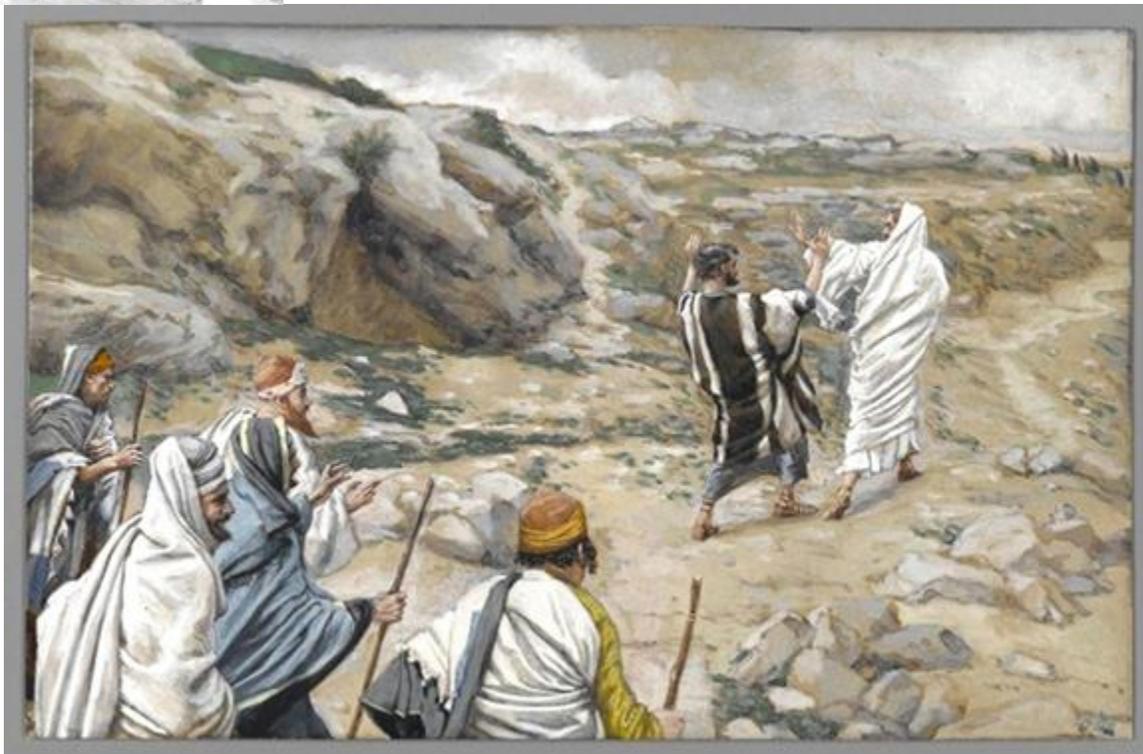


Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13; Psalm 22:22-30; **Mark 8:31-38**
The Second Sunday of Lent

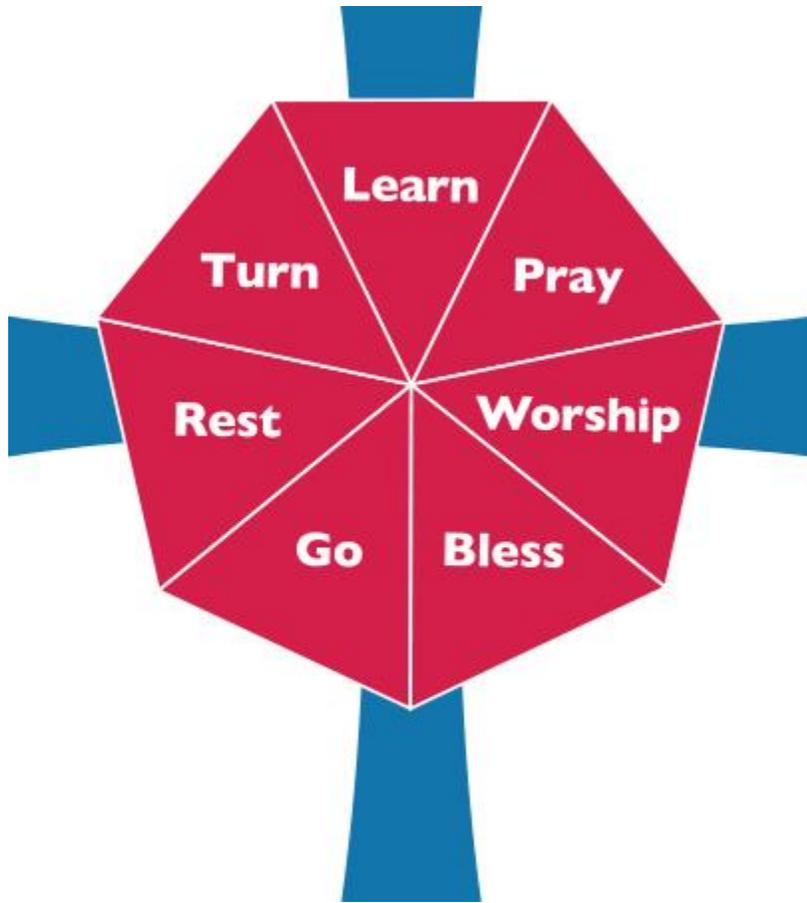
The experience we have as followers of Jesus is not always comfortable. Following and being attentive to sharing God's love and walking alongside of travelers who are also on this journey of learning to love more deeply, more justly, and more compassionately means we have to turn, transform, or wake up as we walk.

When Jesus spoke to Peter, because Peter protested that Jesus could not possibly use the image of a cross and crucifixion; these are images of shame in the Jewish tradition. Jesus was telling Peter that follow him, walking this Way would bring suffering and even death. God turned the story upside down when even betrayal could lead to new life. If sometimes we are tipped off our feet, that stumbling can lead into new life. To walk the Way means we cannot take for granted the ways of the world, rather God is inviting us to serve others. To hear that there may be suffering, not just prosperity, for the very first time —might mean we cry out— “no-not like that!” Yet, it is a Way that brings joy, even amidst the challenges of living.



James Tissot “Get thee Behind me, Satan! 1886-1894, watercolor

Peter challenges Jesus: his expectations are for a worldly rule—getting out from under the rule of the Roman Empire—a Messiah that would lead them. Jesus challenges his friend because Peter does not understand that this Way will be a way of suffering, a turning upside down of what he thought he knew. It will also be a way of new Life and Joy.



We can turn and walk the Way of Love. It is a path that will invite others, invite us to pray, welcome and bring others into a relationship with Jesus. As we walk, we can discover how we are being called in this moment to be a part of the Jesus movement.

May following Christ lead us in a Holy Lent.

Susan