

March 12th, 2017
2nd Sunday in Lent
Cycle A

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1 – 4a.

God blesses all who place their trust in God and have Faith.

Psalm 33:4 – 5, 18 – 19, 20, 22.

God, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

2nd Reading: Timothy 1:8b – 10.

God saves us and provides the strength we need to be holy.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1 – 9.

God reveals God's beloved child as he truly is.

“Change my heart, Lord”

God is good, **all the time**. All the time, **God is good**.

I realized as I sat down to put this to paper that this is my only opportunity to preach to you this Lent; so latch those seat belts and hold on! Just kidding don't want anyone walking out yet.

Actually as I reflected on our readings today, I heard, as I so often do, it is about relationship: our relationship to God and our relationship with others! Am I willing to give up “control”, am I willing to open myself up to my own vulnerabilities and let the light of God beam through me to others, and to see that self same light coming through their faces for my benefit? Lent is a time for us to join in solidarity with those in RCIA who will be joining us, joining our community, our faith tradition through baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. It is a time to reaffirm, reinforce, recharge our own baptismal promises and carry boldly that light of the Christ that was entrusted to us at our Baptism. But what is required of us to allow that light to beam through.

I was reminded of a Thomas Merton Story, found in his book, *The Seven Story Mountain*, of when he was one time sent out from the monastery to carry out some errand for the good of the whole; but he did not want to be the one to go. So he finds himself in the city square and he stops, looks around, sees all the people. It suddenly hits him that all of these folks are his brothers and sisters and he is called to love them and receive love from them. In his reflection of this transformative moment he wrote: “There is no way of telling people that they are walking around shining like the sun.” Why is it so? It seems to me that we let all

of our “stuff” come between us and the ones we are to shine our light on: our possessions, our egos, our jobs, our tests, our school work, our addictions, all of our stuff! The transfiguration should not frighten us, it should lighten us, free us of holding on to the things that don’t belong to us anyway. Lent is a time to change our hearts! Our attitudes! The way we live our lives! So that we can “listen to God’s call.” And find myself shining through the darkness of our world. *Listening* is the most active verb involved in PRAYER. So let us join our elect in praying for enlightenment and courage to let go of our “stuff” this Lent.

I am going to ask you to trust me for a minute, please close your eyes, take a deep breath, hold it, let it out, (repeat) now listen to God, however, you envision God to be say to you: Do not be afraid, “You are my child, beloved, you enjoy my favor! I hope that felt as powerful to you as it did for me as I prayed it; and that it encourages you to take the light which has been entrusted to you and shine it on your world. Then maybe we will come a bit closer to understanding how suffering, death, and resurrection are at the very heart of LOVE.

God is good, **all the time.** All the time, **God is good.**