

Sunday 14th February 2021

The Sunday before Lent



Today's Gospel reading: Mark 9: 2-9

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

In today's Gospel we hear St Mark's account of the Transfiguration of Jesus.

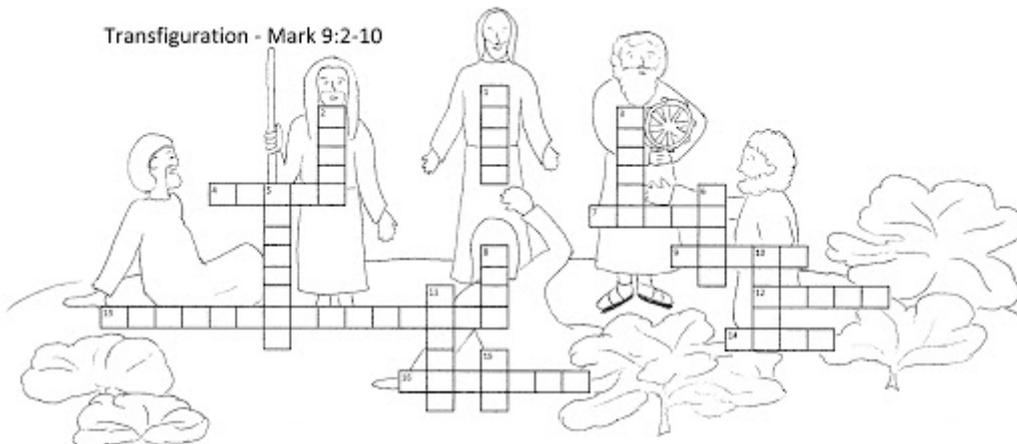
"Transfiguration" means a change of form or appearance. Here, Jesus's appearance changes so that a glimpse is given of his full heavenly glory.

The disciples were beginning to understand that Jesus is God's Messiah and this experience helped to deepen this understanding. It was so special that only Jesus's three closest followers - Peter, James and John - were chosen to witness it. Jesus wanted them to understand that his role of Messiah would involve suffering and death, but that this would not be the final outcome of his mission. Jesus had come from heaven and he would return there following his death and resurrection - when he had completed his task on Earth. We, like the disciples, are told to "listen to him!"

JESUS TRANSFIGURED



Transfiguration - Mark 9:2-10



Across

4. Together with John, one of the sons of Zebedee
7. Jesus' clothes became dazzlingly _____
9. Peter offered to erect _____ for Jesus, Moses and Elijah.
12. Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone what had happened until after he had _____ from the dead.
13. This event in Jesus' life is called the _____.
14. Jesus' friends did not understand what he meant when he spoke of rising from the _____.
16. God described Jesus as what kind of son?

Down

1. The beloved Son of whom the voice from the cloud spoke.
2. The leader of the Exodus to whom God gave the Law in the Old Testament.
3. The prophet whose return was expected before the Messiah would come.
5. Jesus took his friends up on a _____.
6. The fisherman who became leader of the disciples.
8. The son of Zebedee known as the beloved disciple.
10. The number of tents Peter offered to set up on the mountain top.
11. A voice from the cloud told the disciples to do this to Jesus.
15. God spoke from the cloud and said, "This is my beloved _____."

Keep scrolling down for a picture to colour!

Lent

The Holy season of Lent begins this Wednesday, which is Ash Wednesday. What can we do to make it special?

Some people give up something they really like during Lent!

Other people take up something, perhaps making time to read or reflect on a Bible passage or a book, or to pray.

The important thing, whether we give up or take up, is to "open up"... to open our hearts to God's love, so that we are eager to learn more about what Jesus did for us, to listen to him, and to be ready to celebrate Easter when it comes.

What will YOU do?

Archdeacon John has written a special prayer for our diocese this Lent. We are being encouraged to pray this prayer at 6 o'clock every evening in Lent, or as close to 6 o'clock as we can manage. This is a lovely way of coming together as the "Teulu Asaph" and perhaps you would like to join us?

This is the prayer:

Sovereign Lord,
all our beginnings and endings
are encompassed by you.
Help us follow in the footsteps of Christ
and seek your Kingdom with all our hearts.
In Jesus, may we find firm footing for our feet
and clear direction to our travels.
With his life and love
breathed into our witness,
may we stand with him,
who, for the joy that was set before him,
endured the cross. Amen.

During this week, see what you can find out about Ash Wednesday and the rituals associated with this very special day in the Christian calendar.

We will think some more about Lent next week!

A picture for you to print and colour:

