



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 8, 2020

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Gn 12:1-4a

2 Tm 1:8b-10

Mt 17:1-9

## What a Blessing!

**T**oday's readings don't seem Lenten. They are uplifting, not penitential. God makes promises to Abram of extraordinary good fortune, political protection, and international status. The man must have been thrilled. Paul reminds Timothy that the life of holiness and blessing to which we have been called is a gift from God; always available to us, and not a reward for any good works we might have performed. And then we hear of Jesus' transfiguration in the sight of a few disciples. They were so overwhelmed by that spectacular experience they wanted to pitch tents so they wouldn't have to leave the place. How are such wondrous ideas penitential?

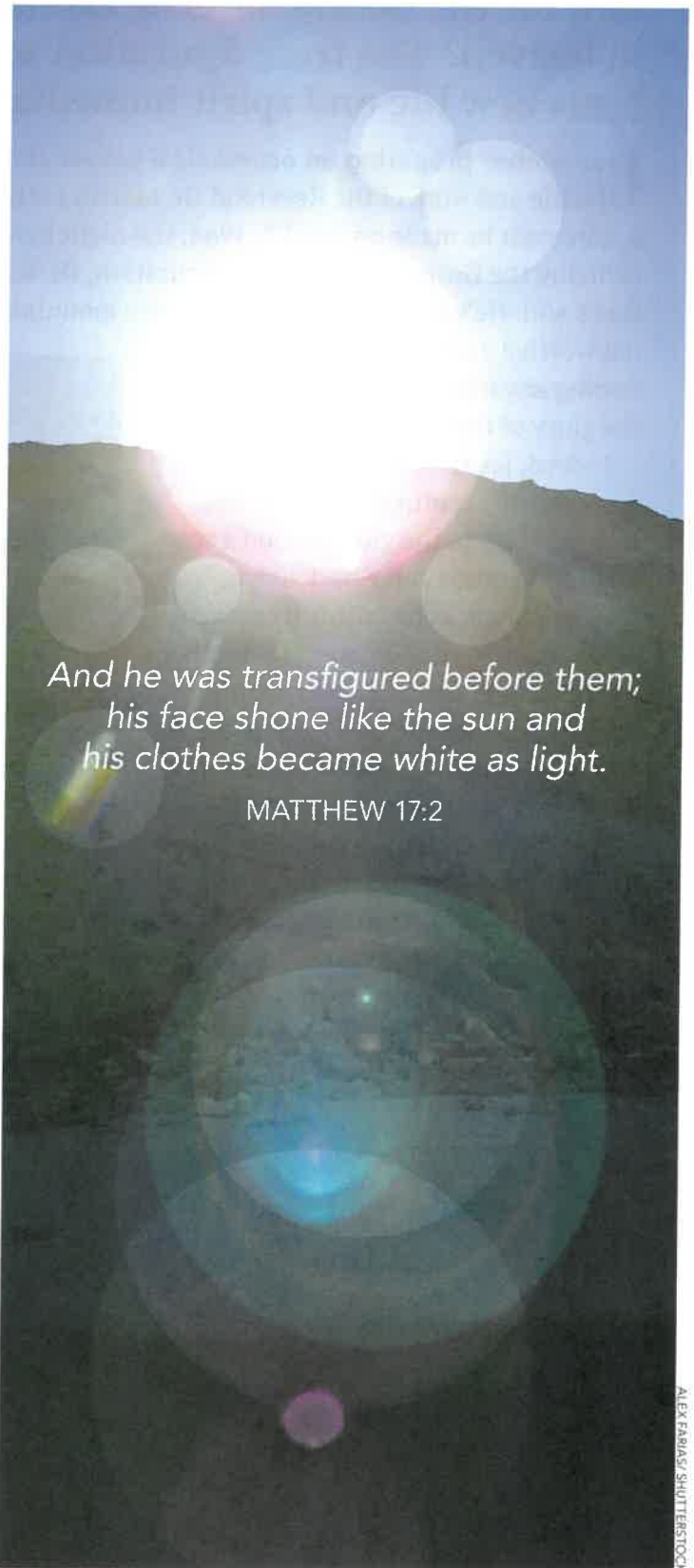
While God's marvelous blessings are free gifts, we are expected to respond to them appropriately, to accept them and use them for the common good. Abram's blessings were not simply for him and his family. "All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:3). His blessings would open a door to others—other nations, other ethnic groups, other religious communities. Abram was not simply chosen by God. He was chosen so that others might be blessed through him.

Timothy was instructed to "bear your share of hardship for the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:8). The blessing might be a gift, but it carried the responsibilities of discipleship. The voice from heaven told the disciples: "Listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). Being chosen by God or having seen the glory of Jesus calls for a change of mind and heart. This change isn't easy to accomplish. It is the reason for penance.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *In what ways might you be a blessing for others?*
- ★ *Listen to Jesus. What is he saying to you?*



*And he was transfigured before them;  
his face shone like the sun and  
his clothes became white as light.*

MATTHEW 17:2

ALEX FABIAS/SHUTTERSTOCK

# Dear Padre,

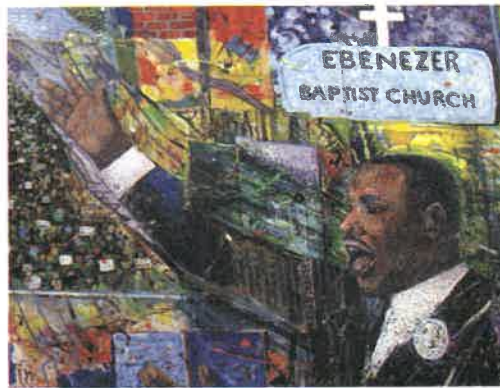
**Is the new life that Jesus promises available now for the taking, or is he talking about life in heaven? The transfiguration seems to give Jesus new life and spirit immediately.**

**I** remember preparing an ecumenical prayer service to commemorate the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I came across a statement he made on April 3, 1968, the night before he was assassinated. Utilizing the Gospel of Jesus' transfiguration, Dr. King said, "I just want to do God's will. He's allowed me to go up to the mountain....I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

Indeed, Jesus went to the mountaintop centuries ago and was transfigured. In the glory of God's voice and vision, Jesus came back down, fearing no one as he faithfully preached God's word, even as he went to another mountaintop, that of Calvary. Only then, in his moment of obedient death, was God's earthly glory fulfilled in him. "It is finished," he proclaimed (John 19:30). Yet even here, there is still more: the wait in hope and expectation of God's ultimate vindication three days later in the resurrection.

So my hope for you, for me, for everyone, is that we also have mountaintop experiences of God's grace and blessing. Such moments of prayer, obedience, and service are there for the taking whenever we receive God's courage to act with integrity, justice, or forgiveness. Still, the culmination of our own bearings of the cross always awaits its ultimate completion beyond the grave in the kingdom of heaven.

—Fr. James A. Krings  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*The event of the Lord's transfiguration offers us a message of hope—thus shall we be, with him. It invites us to encounter Jesus, to be at the service of our brothers and sisters.*

—ANGELUS, AUGUST 6, 2017

## Calendar

### Monday

MARCH 9

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b–10

Lk 6:36–38

### Tuesday

MARCH 10

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16–20

Mt 23:1–12

### Wednesday

MARCH 11

Lenten Weekday

Jer 18:18–20

Mt 20:17–28

### Thursday

MARCH 12

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5–10

Lk 16:19–31

### Friday

MARCH 13

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a,  
17b–28a

Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

### Saturday

MARCH 14

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14–15, 18–20

Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

### Sunday

MARCH 15

Third Sunday

of Lent

Ex 17:3–7

Rom 5:1–2, 5–8

Jn 4:5–42 or 4:5–15,

19b–26, 39a, 40–42