**Homily for the 2nd Sunday of Lent(3/17/2019)**

Rev. Francis Kim

We are now entering the second week of the Lenten Season. Last week, our Gospel spoke about the desert where Jesus spent forty days. It was a Sunday to speak about the call to the desert for our Lenten journey: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

This week, the Gospel speaks not about the call to the desert, but call to the mountain, the call to union with God. Through the readings today, God is calling us to a holy and glorious life with Jesus Christ.

In the First Reading, God is calling Abraham to His glory, and in the Second Reading, Paul reminds us that God calls us to a holy and new life as citizens of heaven. And, in the Gospel, as it reaches the climax, there is the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus on a high mountain.

Then, let’s think about the true meaning of the Transfiguration of Jesus. This is about our story. God said to Jesus in His Transfiguration, “This is my chosen Son.”

We were also called to become His beloved and chosen sons and daughters. After baptism, we were transformed from sin, and we became a beloved children of God. God calls us to a glorious life. Today’s Gospel reminds us of this glory moment in the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Peter, James, and John, the three apostles went on the mountain and had an experience of Christ’s glory there. On the mountain, there is the desire of Peter to stay with God’s glory forever. But, there is the valley.

After the Transfiguration, Jesus and His disciples came down from the mountain. We also must come down from the holy mountain. The Holy mountain is a place where we can have communion with God, such as the holy Eucharist or other Sacraments.

We all know, between the mountain peaks are the valleys. The view from atop the mountain is beautiful. But, at some point, we must come down off the mountain.

All of us need to go move back and forth between the mountain and the valley. Certainly, we have to work out our salvation in the ups and downs of daily lives. Life contains joys and sorrows, pain and struggles, defeat as well as triumph. That’s life.

In our life, we all need the mountain, and we all need the valley. The valley is where people live and work their struggles. Jesus knew both. He went to the mountain and brought its place and grace to the valley.

Remember, when the disciples came down to the valley, Jesus also came down with them. When we return to the world again, when we return to our daily life again, after the holy Eucharist, Jesus also returns to the world with us. Jesus always comes with us in our lives.

For each of us, the mountain of worship is our very personal place where we listen to the Lord. As God says in the Gospel, we have to listen to Him. Jesus speaks to us in many ways at Mass, but also through events on our life.

He can speak to us through the failures of our life. He can speak to us through the difficult relationships and conflicts we have. He can speak to us through illness. Tragedy can carry the word of the Lord to us.

Lent is a season to journey to the mountain of worship and to recommit ourselves to the work of the valley.

God shows us the way, the truth, and the life. Make a turning point in your life. Make transfiguration in your life. Decide to change and to move your life to be holy. Then, we will experience a glorious moment with God. That is God’s calling for us today to our lenten journey.

God says to us today, “You are my beloved and chosen ones.” It is our identity and destiny.