

## ***“You Will See Jesus!”***

Did you sing your “Amen” to the Collect today? Do you believe what you prayed for – that God, “in the glorious transfiguration of [His] beloved Son” will “bring [you] to the fullness of [your] inheritance in heaven”?

Dearly beloved – all who “listen to Him” and believe His Word – will be brought to the fullness of the inheritance in heaven. YOU WILL see Jesus in all His glory!!

Jesus, through His servant St. Luke the Evangelist, is speaking to you today. “Listen to Him,” the Father says. The Lord uses words of a mountain, a cloud, and a voice from the cloud to lead you up a mountain to see the altered and dazzling appearance of Christ.

You are on Mt. Sinai with Moses who sees the Lord and does not die. You are like Thomas who “eight days” after the resurrection sees the resurrected Jesus, wounds and all (St. John 20:26). YOU WILL see this same Lord – the transfigured and resurrected One – and with Thomas declare, “My Lord and My God!”

ALREADY you are given to hear and see Jesus. NOT YET do you see Him in all the fullness of His glory.

Just as we all Collect-ively offer our prayers to the Lord – so we are all alike in that we’d like to fast-forward to the end, to the good stuff. We’d rather skip over all the suffering and go right to the fullness of glory.

No more suffering. No more tears. No more pain. No more death. Skip over all that and go right to the glory of heaven. Skip over all those things that you will face this coming week – those things you dread, those things you fear.

Right now, let’s skip over all that and get to heaven – with your spouse, your children and grandchildren – without what you fear might happen (or is happening) in your family and in your life.

Dearly beloved, ALREADY you are with Jesus on the mountain – NOT YET have you been brought “to the fullness of [your] inheritance in heaven.”

“Now about eight days after these sayings,” St. Luke writes – Jesus “took with Him Peter and John and James and went up on a mountain to pray.” What are “these sayings” that he refers to? Well, if you look at the prior context – it is Peter’s confession of Jesus as “the Christ” – it is Jesus telling the disciples about His upcoming suffering and death – and then, what Jesus says to them about being His disciples.

“And [Jesus] said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.’” (St. Luke 9:23-27)

“After these sayings” – Peter and John and James find themselves on the mountain with Jesus – seeing glorious things – and hearing Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah about “His departure” – which is, literally, “His exodus.”

He is speaking of His upcoming suffering and death – by which He will deliver His disciples from the slavery and bondage of sin and its death.

“Now Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw His glory” – and Peter goes into fast-forward-mode. “Let us make three tents,” he says – and the connection that we don’t often make is that Peter probably has in mind the “tents” or “booths” of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Just as Israel of old lived in tents after their “exodus” from Egypt – so Peter suggests they live in “tents” here with the Lord on the mountain in all His glory. But Peter doesn’t know what he was saying – that is, he didn’t see the “fullness” of what the Transfiguration is all about.

Just as the cloud hides what is going on – the voice from the cloud reveals. It is an Epiphany – the voice showing forth what the disciples of Jesus need to know and believe. “Listen to Him” – and there is no doubt about who they are to listen to – for “Jesus was found alone.” Listen to Jesus, and follow Him.

Down the mountain they will go, following Jesus who is headed for His exodus – His suffering and death to deliver all sinners. But just as with the exodus from Egypt, these followers find that there is still the wilderness to deal with.

They will live in “tents” even as the Lord dwells in the midst of them – in a tent, the Tabernacle. They are on the way to the Promised Land – they have ALREADY been delivered in the exodus – but NOT YET is the “fullness” that is to come.

The wilderness is hard – a place of scarcity and deprivation – a place of temptation and struggles. But Jesus the Christ is with you as you wander through the wilderness of this world. God Himself is tenting or tabernacle-ing with you – just as He did with His people of old.

The devil tried to entice God’s people of old with the false promises of the false gods that surrounded them. He stirred them up to fear their enemies more than the Lord God Almighty. He tempted them to give in to the desires of their flesh. They longed for other food. They whined and complained against God – blaming Him for their life in the wilderness. They wanted to turn around and go back to the slavery of Egypt.

For this we too must repent. When the devil uses the things of this life to lead us to believe that God doesn’t care about us, that He has abandoned us – enticing us to give up on this “foolish” journey of following Jesus.

Dearly beloved, Jesus does love you. He who was on the mountains of Sinai and the Transfiguration – who dwelled in the Tabernacle in the wilderness – He is with you. He gives you Bread from heaven – satisfies your thirst with “living water” – robes you with His garments of righteousness that do not wear out – defends you from all enemies, and guides and leads you to the Promised Land of heaven.

It is good for you to be here – to hear the Word of the Lord who forgives all your sin with His resurrected Body and Blood. It is good for you to be here – to hear the voice from the cloud that gives you a glimpse ALREADY of what is true – revealing what lies in store for all who listen to Jesus and follow Him.

It is good for you to be here – but one day – you WILL SEE Jesus in all His glory. You WILL SEE the resurrected Christ with your own resurrected body – when He brings you “to the fullness of [your] inheritance in heaven.” Until that day, the Lord is with you. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, guards your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.