

PREPARING AT HOME

February 5-11, 2018

Focus reading: Mark 9:2–9 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=382085744>)

Other lectionary readings: 2 Kings 2:1–12, Psalm 50:1–6, 2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Theme: Called to Resurrection

On this Sunday before Lent we observe the end of Jesus' ministry in Galilee and look ahead to his journey to Jerusalem and the cross. It is at this intersection that Jesus' glory is revealed in a mysterious event known as the Transfiguration of Jesus. In the first verse of his Gospel, Mark has already identified Jesus as the Son of God. In the story of the Transfiguration, Mark offers strong evidence to support his opening claim. Jesus is on a mountaintop with three of his disciples. His appearance is transformed, changed from that of a physical human body to a glorious spiritual body. Moses, representing the Law, and Elijah, representing the Prophets, appear on either side of Jesus. In an announcement reminiscent of Jesus' baptism, God declares that Jesus is the divine Son. It is an event that confounds all logic, experience, or explanation. How do we respond to such an event? The terrified disciples don't know what to say, but Peter suggests that they build a booth and stay a while. What could be better than being in the presence of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah? Imagine the conversations they could have and the teachings that would be shared! Yet, the resurrection lay ahead! As amazing as the Transfiguration was, something even greater was to come! Perhaps this mysterious experience where heaven seemed to meet earth would help to prepare the disciples for the day when God's power and love would conquer death.

THIN PLACES

Have you ever felt God's presence in a special way? Where were you when that happened? What was it like? We sometimes speak of "thin places," meaning where the lines between heaven and earth are blurred. For some Prospect children and youth, Camp Johnsonburg is a "thin place" where they have caught a glimpse of God or "heard" God's voice. Draw pictures of your "thin places."

LOVED BY GOD

When Jesus went down the mountain after the Transfiguration, he headed toward Jerusalem and the cross. This glorious image, the affirmation of Jesus' divine Sonship surely must have strengthened him for the difficult challenges that were ahead. Talk with your child about how much he or she is loved by God and you. Talk about what it means to be a child of God and a member of your family. This week start each day with the prayer below.

PRAYER

May God take you to high places.
May God grant you thin places.
May God give you moments apart from the ordinary,
sacred glimpses of the extraordinary,
to shine light into your every day.
Amen.

Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ, www.prospectchurch.org

Rita Boyer, rita@prospectchurch.org