Lent 2 C

MDP of God

I want to do something a little different than normal—I want to give basically a bible study on today’s gospel—why the Transfiguration? **What is so significant about this event?**

1st of all – you need to understand what the Jewish people were expecting with the Savior

They were expecting a new Moses—who would bring about a new covenant—He would bring about a new Exodus—who would give His people a new manna and establish a new Passover—**and He would fulfill the law and the prophets** [that’s key in understanding this gospel]

“The Law and the prophets” is basically how the Jewish people referred to the OT

And so in the Transfiguration we have Moses who was the giver of the law---we have the Prophet Elijah—he was the proto-typical prophet who was brought into heaven body and soul at the end of his earthly life

So this is meant to show how the law and the prophets *were pointing to Jesus* **and were fulfilled by Him**

The whole bible is basically about Jesus—and here we have the law giver and the greatest Prophet giving witness to Jesus

2ndly—the people were expecting a new Moses---as they put it, “a prophet like unto Moses”

You’ll remember Moses encountered God on a mountain—and when he did he had brought three people with Him [Aaron, Abihu and Nadab]-[**God spoke** to him]

Here Jesus goes up a mountain—He brings three people with Him—*the voice of the father is heard [God spoke]-*--**so this is saying Jesus is the New Moses**

Just in case you missed it—you’ll remember how when Moses encountered God that his face radiated the glory of God—he had to cover his face because the glory radiating from him scared the people

So here we see the clothes of Jesus become radiant—whiter than is humanly possible **and the face of Jesus radiates the glory of God---***again pointing to the fact that Jesus is the new Moses*

3rd—the people are expecting a new Exodus

 In the original Exodus God freed the people from their slavery

Well notice here how Jesus speaks to Moses and Elijah of *His upcoming* ***Exodus*** *in Jerusalem*--- *you see through Jesus’ saving work we are set free from our slavery to sin and death [which is way more important that some political liberation]*

You know every year here at St Helen’s—we have a few dozen funerals---*and at those funerals we can celebrate with joy because of the new Exodus of Jesus*—**because Jesus has set us free from sin and death**

Of course it wasn’t to be until the Last Supper that Jesus would reveal the New Passover-the new manna (bread from heaven) and the new *and eternal* **covenant**

 But notice here --- *that Moses and Elijah appear in glory*

**That’s a promise to us folks**—when we’re faithful we like Moses and Elijah we’ll receive glory from God—*we’ll share in the glory of the Savior Jesus Christ*

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So Jesus here is trying to show how He is the fulfillment of all of scripture

He is the new Moses, bringing a new covenant-through a new Exodus—giving a new manna at the new Passover [Passover is Mass—mana is the Eucharist]

*But here—in this gospel-- He’s also concerned with His Apostles*---He’s on His way to the crucifixion----*the Apostles’ world is about to be shaken*---they’re about to be shaken to their core

After all—they left everything to follow Jesus---and in a few days time **it will appear that everything is lost**

So Jesus in this event is also trying to strengthen the faith of these Apostles to pull them through what will be the most devastating loss that they’ve ever faced

And again my friends, that reminds us of God’s compassionate care for you and me

 Will you and I like the Apostles face losses---absolutely

 Will you and I have struggles when it comes to our faith---absolutely

In fact the faith right now is being attacked from both outside the church—but also from inside the church

[There are priests who have done unspeakablr crimes—in jail—bishops who handled these situations terribly—inexcusably (mostly gone—25-30 years ago)---and even today we have Cardinals in the church—high up with great responsibilities who fulfill what St Paul said in our 2nd reading--- who have shown themselves to be enemies of the cross of Christ—wo have basically lost their faith]

So will you and I have struggles when it comes to our faith---absolutely

Will you and I sometimes feel that everything is lost—wonder why God would allow this to happen –question what God has in store for us----absolutely

But with Jesus---*we have a new freedom in the Spirit*-- we can always know that God is there—that Jesus Christ walks with us—that the Father holds us in the palm of His hand—that the Holy Spirit will be here to give us strength [the cloud in today’s gospel --by the way in this is a symbol of the Holy Spirit—Holy Spirit window]—to fill us with hope—//*to empower us to face even the most difficult trials with joy in our hearts because Jesus Christ has won the victory*

 He is the one the law and the prophets pointed to

 He is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets

He is the new Moses—bringing us into a new freedom--who gave us a new covenant—who led us into a new Exodus—who provided us with a new manna (a few minutes time we’ll be able to receive that new manna) at the new Passover (Mass)

*And so Jesus by the power of the Spirit sets us free--***we can face anything with hope** because Jesus Christ has won the victory and he calls you and I to share in that victory for eternity—**Amen?** Amen