

Good afternoon and welcome to all of you who have come to join us for this Lectio today. Our circle continues to widen and deepen as we join together during this year's Lenten time. Today we move from the desert to the mountain-top in the celebration of this gospel's moment of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus is seen in all his glory by the three disciples and God confirms his life and mission with the words: my beloved Son; listen to him.

St. Paul tells us that we humans, steeped in this word of God, are being changed into God's likeness from one degree of glory to another. We are vessels of God's divine glory and are being called and transformed into the love and communion that is God's life among us. We are the dazzling beauty of human beings alive with God's life, already on the road to greater consciousness and transformation in Christ. This glory is the light, sometimes unseen, on our path toward this fullness of God's life. This is who we are.

I am reminded of those courageous and mystic words that concluded Amanda Gorman's Inauguration Day poem:

*When day comes, we step out of the shade,
Aflame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it,
For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it,
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

So let us pray:

O loving God, here on the mountain-top we are given a vision of the future for which we hope, the prefiguring of the human person fully enlivened by the Spirit. On this day we ask you to revive our spirits and help us to know the beauty and glory of God breaking through into our human existence. Do not let us ever be separated from the love of Christ. Give us your grace, O God, for the lifetime work of contemplation, in the desert and on the mountain. Help us know, from day to day, the dream and reality of Jesus as our hope and our future. We ask all this in his holy name... Amen.

With hope we turn to our God of light and glory, singing:

-That each of us will be given the grace, in times of darkness, to imagine new possibilities for the future,

-That we will be able to live in the knowledge that we are God's beloved,

-For all peoples who live in the desert, who face hunger and displacement every day,

-For all those who suffer from Covid-19, for those who are depressed and anxious, and all those suffering personal crises, we pray...

-That the world community will be generous in sharing its resources so that all peoples around our globe might experience the true dignity of their humanity,

-For our Congress in Washington, may they work together for the systemic and far-reaching changes that are needed to end all war and violence,

-to bring about justice for all who are oppressed, and to refresh and revive the soul of our country, we pray...

For your prayers...

Let us pray: Life-giving God, you touch our lives with hope and glory on the mountain and you embrace us in the deserts of our suffering and need. Please hear and answer our prayers in the name of Jesus, our savior and brother forever and ever... AMEN.