

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Year A March 16, 2014**

Theme: Our Mountaintop

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“The liturgy is the summit toward which of all the church’s activity is directed and the fountain from which all her power flows.”

That’s a huge claim for this one hour a week we spend together.

Yet this is how the worldwide bishops at the Second Vatican Council described what we do here this evening/morning:

“The liturgy is the summit toward which of all the church’s activity is directed and the fountain from which all her power flows.”

As our parish reflects on the Lenten theme of “Living the Eucharist” it is appropriate to consider what the bishops were saying in this statement.

A summit: something upward, toward which things are directed.

A fountain: something outward, from which things flow away.

Two images this bishops suggested to describe what this liturgy is like.

A summit toward which our activities as Christians are directed and a fountain from which our energy flows.

Does it sound to any of you at all like the Gospel we just heard?

Up to the top of a high mountain, a sort of liturgy of divine words and transfiguration on that mountaintop and then back down the mountain to the ministry they had left below.

Jesus and his three disciples go to the mountaintop to pray, to rest, to be refreshed and revitalized in their work of preaching and teaching.

While there on the summit of the mountain, the disciples see Jesus in a whole new and radiant light.

They see in him light of Moses and Elijah.

They see him as far beyond Moses and Elijah.

They finally hear the Word of God declaring him to be the only Son and Chosen One of God.

And then, refreshed and renewed by this experience, they go back down the mountain to the work and world they left behind, ready to resume their mission.

The story of the Transfiguration models this Sunday Eucharist for us:

All week long this Eucharist has been the summit toward which we have looked and worked.

Our Christian service, our acts of Christian charity, our selflessness for others were directed at being joined to Christ's and to those of the church at the summit of this Eucharist.

Our living out the word of God, our desire to know Christ, the "Beloved One of God" and to know that we, too, are enveloped in the cloud of God's love has been fulfilled in the summit of this Eucharist.

All our individual prayers are brought together here and become the prayer of the Church which is the prayer of Christ in the summit of this Eucharist.

As Peter James and John left the Mountain of Transfiguration Jesus told them not to tell anyone of their experience until after the resurrection.

Why? Because they had seen an early glimpse, a preview of the resurrection.

At this Eucharist we, too, have a glimpse of the resurrection and from it flows a tremendous fountain of energy for living the Christian way for another week.

A fountain of power to live as men and women of Christian moral values in a world that is often anything but.

A flowing fountain of power to confront personal demons that hamper my own life or make my family's life with me miserable.

And perhaps, were we willing to use it, the power to take on the social, economic and political forces that keep the poor, poor, so many people of color imprisoned, and so many in our world still hungry.

A bubbling, shooting, spraying fountain of power carrying us in its flow through the next seven days of who knows what joy or sorrow, triumph or tragedy.

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