



Transfiguration

A black man talks to his friend, a white man: when I was born I was black, when I grew up I was black, when I am sick I am black, when I go in the sun I am black, when I am cold I am black and when I die I'll be black. But you: when you're born you are pink, when you grow up you are white, when you are sick, you are green, when you go in the sun you turn red, when you are cold you turn blue and when you die you turn purple. And you have the nerve to call me coloured!!!

In today's Gospel, Mark tells us about Jesus' Transfiguration, not only his appearance is changed but also with him are Elijah, the prophet and Moses, the liberator and from the cloud came a voice: "This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him." The command, "Listen to him," reinforces Yahweh's exhortation in the book of Deuteronomy (18:15) and identifies Jesus as the bearer of the word of God. In Mark, the transfiguration is about the revelation granted to the disciples who need a glimpse of God to prevent them from being scandalized at seeing Jesus soon after he endured the sufferings which he fully accepted for our sake. He takes them up the mountain so that they can hear his Father's voice calling him Son. He wants to show them that he is truly the Son of God and is himself divine. The big temptation is that of Peter who wants to build a tent, a monument to freeze the moment of presence. The poet William Blake said, "He who binds himself to a joy, does the winged life destroy, but he who kisses the joy as it flies, lives in eternity's sunrise."

As God's children, we are meant to experience Jesus' Transfiguration when we celebrate the Sacraments, when we listen to His Word, when we spend time in prayer. Let us pray that we will be strengthened and encouraged in our life journey.