

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Ordinary Time - The Transfiguration – Yr A

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. White is the appropriate liturgical colour. A very bright torch/lamp, unshielded, could be placed on the table.

Leader: O God, you are ruler over all the earth
All: Let the earth and the coastlands rejoice.

We Listen: The Gospel. Matthew 17:1-9

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"His face shone like the sun...and suddenly, a cloud covered them with shadow."

Commentary:

The only way the disciples could deal with the glory of the Lord was in finally being covered with a shadow. They were stunned by the transfigured face of Jesus, and were unable to deal with it just as when we squint into the sun. Blinded by glare, they floated into inertia, wanting to hunker down into tents, protected from both the sun and the everyday world, living in a state of gloss and unreality. However, when the shadow covered them, they heard the challenge to see clearly what really mattered, "this is my beloved, listen to him." They didn't find the power of Jesus, the vision of the coming kingdom, in the sun and the shimmer: they found it in the shadow, in the reality of coarse grass and bare rocks of the mountain top. In our approach to our Church, our careers, our families, we can be overcome by the effect of the "shine", confused by its dazzle and power. We won't find much future in being the greatest religion, state or person: but we will find everything, when our eyes adjust in the humdrum shade, and see "only Jesus".

We Respond: "They raised their eyes...and saw only Jesus."

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- Do I raise my eyes and find Jesus, in the quiet, in the shadow, in the everyday?
- Can I be mesmerised and blinded by the glare of lights of control and superficiality?

Song: Transfigure Us (-Bob Hurd-Spirit & Song) or Open my Eyes (J Manibusan-AOV1)

We Go Forth:

God of cloud-wisped mountains and quiet shaded gardens, you know that we see you best in broken light. Turn us from seeking the dazzle of suns and the sharpness of gaudy stars and lead in places where colours are true and objects real. May we walk then in the company of Jesus and your people in peaceful calm and loving purpose. Amen.

Leader: O God, cloud and shade are your raiment **All:** I proclaim your justice and right.