Homily by Fr Peter 2012-03-04.pdf

THIS GOSPEL BRINGS BACK GREAT MEMORIES OF OUR PILGRIMAGE LAST YEAR.

OUR FIRST MASS IN THE HOLY LAND WAS CELEBRATED IN THE BASILICA ON TOP OF MOUNT TABOR, THE SCENE OF THE GOSPEL.

AFTER MASS, WHERE WE HAD OF COURSE READ THIS GOSPEL, WE WALKED OUTSIDE AND THE CLOUDS HAD DESCENDED OVER THE MOUNTAIN TOP AND WE FOUND OURSELVES IN A MISTY RAIN. IT WAS JUST AS THE GOSPEL DESCRIBES THE EXPERIENCE OF THE APOSTLES.

JESUS IS ON HIS WAY TO JERUSALEM, WHERE EVENTUALLY HE WILL BE ARRESTED, TORTURED AND CRUCIFIED.

ON THIS MOUNTAIN TOP JESUS HAS AN EXPERIENCE THAT IS TO HELP HIM FACE WHAT IS COMING. MOSES AND

ELIJAH COME TO SPEAK WITH HIM. LUKE TELLS US THAT THEY SPOKE ABOUT HIS DYING IN JERUSALEM.

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, MOSES IS THE GREAT TEACHER AND ELIJAH IS THE GREAT PROPHET. THEY ARE NOW TALKING WITH JESUS, THE NEW TEACHER AND THE GREATEST PROPHET.

THEIR DISCUSSION OF JESUS' DEATH IS THE LINK WITH OUR FIRST READING. ABRAHAM IS CHALLENGED BY GOD TO SACRIFICE HIS ONLY SON, ISAAC. MOUNT MORIAH, THE PLACE FOR THIS SACRIFICE, IS ACTUALLY THE HILL ON WHICH KING DAVID WILL BUILD HIS FORTRESS CITY OF JERUSALEM.

ABRAHAM IS PUT TO THE TEST: A TEST OF HIS OBEDIENCE TO GOD AND HIS TRUST IN GOD.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS LATER, IT IS THE PLACE OF THE SAME TEST FOR JESUS: HIS OBEDIENCE AND TRUST IN

GOD. HIS TRUST THAT HIS DEATH WOULD NOT BE THE END, BUT THE PATH TO THE NEW LIFE OF RESURRECTION.

AS AT THE BAPTISM OF JESUS, THE BEGINNING OF HIS MINISTRY THE VOICE OF GOD IS HEARD PROCLAIMING JESUS AS HIS BELOVED SON. THE SAME HAPPENS HERE AS JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS PASSION.

BUT HERE IS A NEW MESSAGE: GOD CHARGES US TO LISTEN TO HIM.

ON TABOR, PETER SAYS: "IT IS WONDERFUL FOR US TO BE HERE." IT IS FULL OF WONDER!

WE TOO SAY: IT IS WONDERFUL FOR US TO BE HERE. BUT IS CAN ONLY BE FULL OF WONDER FOR US WHEN WE FULLY APPRECIATE WHY WE ARE HERE, AND WHAT HAPPENS WHILE WE ARE HERE.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US AND TELLS US OF HIS BEING WITH US ON OUR LIFE JOURNEY AND WHAT AWAITS US WHEN THIS JOURNEY IS OVER.

JESUS COMES INTO US IN HOLY COMMUNION: THAT IS SOMETHING FULL OF WONDER: WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS IT ADEQUATELY, NOR CAN WE FULLY UNDERSTAND IT. IT IS IN PURE FAITH THAT I ACCEPT THAT LITERALLY, JESUS COMES INTO ME.

THIS IS OUR FAITH. THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH. AND WE ARE PROUD TO PROFESS IT IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

FOR US, AS FOR THE APOSTLES, MOSES AND ELIJAH ARE GONE. THEIR TIME AND WORK ARE DONE. NOW THERE IS ONLY JESUS: THE NEW TEACHER AND THE GREATEST PROPHET. GOD COMMANDS US: LISTEN TO HIM.