



MORNING PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

Readings: Exodus 33; Matthew 26:67-end; Psalms 61-62

But [the Lord said to Moses] you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live" (Exodus 33:20).

Have you ever noticed when your experience is captured by a certain person, event or thing, you find other experiences in life pointing in the same direction? It can be as simple as when Alice and I were looking to buy a certain kind of car, we saw that make and model almost everywhere we went! And when we were engaged, we found ourselves paying much more attention to various aspects of weddings we attended than before. When we have recently lost a loved one, we feel a deeper and more profound sympathy for those who have had a similar experience. It seems that human nature becomes more sensitive as it looks through the lenses of its own experience.

In these days, I am paying more attention to "face to face" encounters, personal interactions and human relationships. Like anything else, we don't miss something until we can't have access to it. It makes me pay attention to passages like Moses and God in Exodus Chapter 33. Moses wanted to see God's glory (verse 18). As a confirmation of God's faithfulness, Moses wanted a fuller revelation. God, in His grace and mercy, gave Moses a fuller revelation, but He did not reveal His face. That aspect of the divine glory would have been too much for Moses, or any other mortal.

But there would come a time when humanity would gaze upon the face of God. What's more, we would not die, but live. The glory of God would be revealed and humanity would see it: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Paul most likely had this account in Exodus in mind when he wrote to the Corinthians: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

I really miss you all. I miss seeing your faces. I miss the interaction that comes with a smile, a touch or a

connection with the eyes. That can happen a bit with electronic communication, but it's not quite the same. It's far from the same. I am already giving thought to what our "reunion" service will be like. One thing I know: it will be filled with God's glory!

Until that time, there is one face upon which we can still gaze: the face of Christ. No, He is not physically here, but note how Paul ends his words to the Corinthians: "For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." In prayer, we can enter into the presence of Christ that is powerful and real. It is far more real than any electronic representation (as helpful as such can be in these days). In some ways, it is more real than our own, physical encounters, for it represents the reality of the Incarnation itself, which is the center of human experience.



Don't treat lightly these moments with the Savior. They can be the anchor of your soul. What Moses longed for, we now have. – Fr. Marc

A Prayer for Desiring God

ACNA Prayer Book, page 668

O God, grant that we may desire you, and desiring you seek you, and seeking you find you, and finding you be satisfied in you for ever. Amen. – Francis Xavier