

Awkwardly, the part of today's Gospel that I wanted to talk about has been edited out of the text in the Lectionary reading.

We all know that in Genesis, God creates the world in 6 days and rests on the seventh.

In both Matthew and Mark's Gospels, the first three words of the account of the Transfiguration are the same: "*After six days ...*"

One can only assume that this trip up the mountain was possibly recreational.

We often hear in the Gospels that Jesus went away alone into the mountains to pray. And so here He is with his disciples "*Peter, James, and ... John*" climbing a mountain.

And after those six days, and a hearty bout of mountain climbing, they most likely wanted to rest.

After the disciples hear God's voice, we hear that "*they fell prostrate*" - or in other words: they laid down.

Our human understanding of "*rest*" is just that - lay down and take a nap.

Yet, here we gain a glimpse of eternity ... maybe we might call it "*eternal rest*" ... but Jesus isn't laying down.

Rather,

*his face shone like the sun  
and his clothes became white as light.  
And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared ...  
conversing with him.*

In other words, God's rest ... the rest in eternity ... is an awful lot more active than a lot of what happens here on earth.

I would hazard the guess that the disciples discussed what happened for years afterward.

We hear St. Peter talking about this event in the Second Reading. And the First Reading from the prophet Daniel attempts to describe a heavenly vision he had.

God's rest is indescribable ... and most likely incomprehensible for us this side of eternity.

Yet, that is what we pray for ... for our beloved dead: "*Eternal rest grant unto them*" the prayer begins.

The Transfiguration is a glimpse into eternity - the infinite now of eternal rest.

Perhaps we may glimpse it in a moment of contemplative prayer, or maybe even in a dream or vision.

Let us strive to more deeply desire the things of eternity ... when we will see God face-to-face.

And as we continue this liturgy and approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us remember that the Mass is a glimpse of the heavenly liturgy ... the worship of the angels and saints around the altar of God in heaven.

May God grant us the grace to realize the truth of this today and at every Mass.