

How can proclaim gospel? How dare we proclaim good news in the face of all the bad news? What response shall we make, how will we go forth from this church to proclaim good news in our lives?

There are some gifts in our readings to take away:

***First Reading: Genesis***

Abram's night of terror. Terror seizes him as night falls. This text directs our minds and prayers to many enduring nights of terror in dark bunkers and basements to avoid shelling and air raids.

Yet it is in that night of terror that the Lord shows his presence and makes his enduring covenant with Abram. We too look and pray that the Lord may reveal his presence to those in deepest, darkest terror.

***Psalm: a psalm of hope and strengthening***

A reminder to us that when we pray the psalms, even when they may not match our mood, they will for someone else in the world and we pray it for them.

This psalm takes on new urgency and vigour: "Hope in Him, hold firm, and take heart. Hope in the Lord"

***Second Reading: Paul to the Philippians:*** Our true homeland is in heaven.

***Gospel: Transfiguration (Luke)***

This gospel teaches us a very important lesson for these times.

It's a glimpse of glory, a glimpse of heaven

In the preface to the Eucharistic Prayer today we see that the church interprets the Transfiguration as moment of strengthening of Peter, John and James on the way to Jerusalem. Just a glimpse of the glory that is to come.

Peter wants to pitch tents for the three glorious figures – in other words he wants to stay in this wonderful lovely state for ever. But... the hard lesson is...

YOU CANNOT STAY ON THE MOUNTAIN.

YOU HAVE TO GO BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN AND TRUDGE ON TO JERUSALEM. And all that Jerusalem will mean: Passion, Crucifixion and Death.

The mountain of Transfiguration is not a permanent state. It's an oasis along the way, a moment of grace and strengthening on the way to Jerusalem.

We, and especially the people of Ukraine, are on such a journey to Jerusalem right now.

We pray for moments of grace, for glimpses of glory, for understanding of the glory that is to come. We pray that even in the most darkest nights of terror there may be glimpses of glory for all peoples on the journey to Jerusalem. For it is only through that journey to Jerusalem, to passion, crucifixion and death, that we reach the resurrection and enter into the glory that lasts forever, where we can as Peter wanted, pitch our tents and stay there forever.