

“What can I do before the immensity and greatness of God? Offer the gifts of the earth, life, and surrender my own will ”

(Saint Raphaela Mary)

Lord, grant me the grace to open my ears well to discover your Presence and hear your voice.



“About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, *“Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”* (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, *“This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”* When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.” (Luke 9:28-36)

The mountain is a symbolic place, a sacred place where God manifests himself. It is a place of encounter with God. In the life of Jesus, the mountains are significant places that mark important moments: previously, he descended from the mountain to the plain with his disciples to proclaim the Beatitudes; now on Mount Tabor he receives a new experience of love from his Father; later on Mount Calvary he will surrender himself for love to us.

If Jesus lives the experience of Tabor before that of Calvary it is because no one can go to suffering and to the cross if he has not previously experienced the love of God. Jesus ascended Mount Tabor because his painful destiny can only be adequately contemplated from the perspective of God's love. Driven by the experience of God's personal love, we make the decision to do the will of the Father, whatever that may be. Only those who have heard the voice of God who declares his personal and unconditional love, only those who experience themselves loved by God, can say "may not my will be done, but yours," and will be able to give their lives for others.

Going up Mount Tabor means taking a step in faith: in it we are supplied with the love and strength necessary to carry the Cross. The purpose of Mount Tabor is not to erect three tents at its summit, but to descend and travel the roads that lead to Jerusalem and culminate in Calvary, where we voluntarily surrender our lives for others.

Today we can walk and climb Mount Tabor through prayer. Thanks to it we can understand the greatness of God, discover and listen to Him.

Today the Lord continues to be transfigured for us: every time we participate in the Eucharist we relive the wonder of the presence of God, who descends to the top of the mountain and whom we can contemplate. However, the Eucharist does not end in the temple; we have to go down to the world to announce what we have contemplated and lived. The Eucharist is committed contemplation.

Today the voice of God tells us: Listen to Him. Listen to Jesus; let's follow Him. Let's listen to Him in the world, in the suffering reality, in our brothers. Let us follow Him, journeying with Him, to make our own existence a gift of love for others.