

July 19, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

I WILL BE WITH YOU

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

From Today's First Reading

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the LORD appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned." When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me, and I have truly noted that the Egyptians are oppressing them. Come, now! I will send you to Pharaoh to lead my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to

Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He answered, "I will be with you; and this shall be your proof that it is I who have sent you: when you bring my people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this very mountain."

EXODUS 3:1-6, 9-12

Reflection

In this passage we learn why baby Moses was saved from drowning in the Nile River by the three unnamed women of the previous chapter. He is to meet "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" who, with Moses' help, will lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, i.e., out of oppression. The LORD meets Moses on Mt. Horeb (also known as Mt. Sinai) to give directions for the mission ahead. Moses, not quite believing that he is chosen to work with God in the difficult task of saving his people, questions the LORD's choice: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Then God speaks words of bold encouragement: "I will be with you." The proof that the LORD sent Moses, and is with Moses, comes when the people have left Egypt. On the mountain, where the LORD is currently meeting with Moses, the children of Israel will gather to worship their God in their new freedom.



Lonely mountain
Photo by Alicia Rodriguez

For Pondering

- Hear God greet you and say "I will be with you." What does that mean for you? How does it affect you? What is your response?
 - Tell God: "I will be with you." What is God's response?
 - What is the name of the "mountain" where you worship God? Who joins you in that worship?
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For Prayer

*O LORD, my soul and all my being, bless your holy name.
O LORD, I do not forget all your support.*

*You pardon all my sins and heal all my troubles.
You redeem my life from destruction,
you surround me with kindness and compassion.*

*Gracious LORD, secure justice and the rights of all the oppressed.
You have made known your ways
and your saving deeds to the children of the world.
I give you abundant thanks! Amen.*

BASED ON PSALM 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7

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