



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## Second Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

### *“Listening to the Chosen One, the Source of Hope”*

The event of the Transfiguration of Jesus is a profound manifestation of His divine glory. Peter, James, and John were privileged to witness this extraordinary moment, overwhelmed by the experience. Peter's excitement to build tents for them reflects the awe and reverence of the occasion. Among the remarkable aspects of the Transfiguration, the voice from the cloud stands out, proclaiming, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”

This divine declaration echoes the moment of Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, where the voice from heaven affirmed Jesus as the Beloved, the Chosen Son. These words invite us to deeply ponder and reflect on the call of the Lenten season.

Lent is a sacred time for self-examination and re-evaluation of how we are heeding this divine voice. We can liken this to the annual safety checks we conduct on our vehicles to ensure they run smoothly and safely. Similarly, Lent is a time for spiritual maintenance, checking our lives, relationships, motivations, and our journey toward the Kingdom of God. It is a time to fine-tune our path, ensuring we live truthfully as sons and daughters of God and disciples of Christ.

Last week's Gospel presented Jesus' temptations, reminding us of His strength and grace in overcoming the devil's lures. Jesus empowers us to turn away from sin and live in God's grace. Every human being has the capacity to follow Jesus' example, yet we often succumb to the temptations of the evil one. This reveals that we sometimes listen more to the call of sin than to the call of Christ.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us embrace these holy days with open hearts, heeding the Father's invitation. May the words spoken by the Father awaken and reawaken us to listen to Jesus. Let us strive to live lives of love, forgiveness, compassion, and mercy. Let us pursue truth, justice, and peace, living lives worthy of the Kingdom.

In addition, we are blessed to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope, proclaimed by Pope Francis. This Jubilee is a time of renewal, forgiveness, and joyful celebration, marking the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord. The Jubilee Year invites us to become "Pilgrims of Hope," renewing our trust in God and fostering hope in our communities and the world. It is a call to deepen our faith, promote the dignity of all persons, and respect God's creation.

As we journey through this Jubilee Year, let us embrace its spirit of reconciliation and pilgrimage. Let it inspire us to live with renewed hope and commitment to Christ's teachings.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual