

Second Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Reading 1: Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 27: 1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

Reading II: Philippians 3: 17-4:1

Gospel: Lk 9: 28b-36

Readings may be found on the US Bishop's website:

[Second Sunday of Lent | USCCB](#)



Jesus is transfigured

The Second Sunday of Lent in each lectionary cycle presents the Transfiguration of Jesus. It is an invitation to see things differently. All the readings invite people to look at life differently.

Peter, James, and John go with Jesus to a mountain to pray. Jesus' appearance changed, and they saw him in a new way. They also saw the two significant figures of the Jewish tradition, Moses and Elijah. Moses was the one who led Israel in the exodus from slavery and who went up the mountain to receive the commandments. During the time on the mountain, Moses' face becomes radiant, and no one could bear to look at him after his encounter with God. Elijah was the model prophet who encountered God on the mountain after fleeing when Jezebel tried to kill him.

Jesus is discussing his coming exodus with them. The first exodus brought the people of Israel forth from physical slavery under the Egyptians. This new exodus will bring all the human family to new life with God.

Christ's death as a criminal was

After Moses and Elijah disappeared, the cloud came. This overshadowing was experienced by Israel at the tent for the Ark of the Covenant when they wandered in the desert and at the temple's dedication in Jerusalem under Solomon. It was the preeminent sign of God's presence.

The disciples had been following Jesus but did not know him as the Son of God. In seeing him with the two great instruments whom God had worked through and hearing the voice declare: *"This is my chosen Son; listen to him."* The disciples are to see and listen to Jesus in a new way. He takes priority over Moses and Elijah and is part of the new work that God is doing.

Abraham is also called to a new vision and opportunity for life. Even though he and Sara are childless and advanced in years, God promises that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars of heaven. As a sign, God celebrates a covenant ceremony with him. God makes a commitment, and Abraham is called to view life through God's plan and not his own.

St. Paul calls the Christians at Philippi to take a different viewpoint. His words are equally applicable to us. The culture around us holds pleasure, wealth, fame, and power as priorities. St. Paul reminds them and us that our citizenship is in heaven. Being a citizen implies that one accepts the values and ideals of our homeland. As Americans, we value democracy, freedom of speech and religion, and having a voice through our representatives. As citizens of heaven, we hold the values of the Gospel, forgiveness, love of our neighbors and our enemies, and service to others. Living these values opens a new vision of life and should be manifest in our actions.

Reflection Questions:

How do you understand the relationship that God offers each person?

What are some of the values or practices of our society that draw us away from Gospel values?

What does the Transfiguration open to you about Jesus and his ministry?

How can you better listen to Jesus? What steps might you take?

Themes

Covenant

Citizenship in heaven

Exodus

Truth revealed in Scripture

Contemplative prayer

Prayer Suggestions:

For the Church: that we may listen with both our minds and hearts to God's beloved Son and be transformed by his words

For a spirit of gratitude: that we may look beyond our daily routines and like Abraham see God's blessings that are as numerous as the stars of the sky

For a deeper understanding of our baptism: that we may grow in our covenant relationship with God and our understanding of our identity as daughters and sons of God

For a deepening of hope: that even though negative and doubting messages abound in our society, we may be confident that God will never abandon us