



1 March 2015

2nd Sunday of Lent

Year B

The Challenge to Bring Out the Best in Us

In this Second Sunday of Lent, we are invited to reflect on the message of Jesus' transfiguration and apply it to our lives. This event in the life of the Lord is an encouragement to bring out the best that is in us – to let our light shine! This will become a reality if we live our lives according to the teaching and example of Jesus.

We are also challenged to remain steadfast in our faith even in the midst of trials. The God who gave His only Son for us will surely protect us from all evil and give us all the help we need.

Let this Eucharist be a profession of faith in God's unflinching love for us and a renewal of our commitment to live a "luminous life."



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Greeting

P – Praise and thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. May His grace and peace be with you all!

All – **And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P – As we gather to celebrate the wonders of the Lord, let us call to mind our sins and implore his forgiveness and his strength.
(Pause)

P – Lord Jesus, in the splendor of the transfiguration you filled your disciples with joy and wonder. Lord, have mercy!

All – **Lord, have mercy!**

P – Lord Jesus, at your transfiguration the Father revealed that you are His beloved Son. Christ, have mercy!

All – **Christ, have mercy!**

P – Lord Jesus, your transfiguration was a foreshadowing of your resurrection and ascension. Lord, have mercy!

All – **Lord, have mercy!**

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All – **Amen!**

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P – O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All – **Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Gn 22:1-2.9.10-13.15-18*

The sacrifice of Isaac was not just a test of Abraham's faith. It was also a dramatic foreshadowing of the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary.

R – A proclamation from the Book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

But the Lord's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I

am!” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least harm to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.” As Abraham looked about, he saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the Lord’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by myself,” declares the Lord, “that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore. Your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing – all this because you obeyed my command.”

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 116

R – *I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living!*

R. M. Velez



* I believed, even when I said, “I am greatly afflicted.” Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. R.

* O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your handmaid. You have

loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. R.

* My vows to the Lord I will pay in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. R.

2nd Reading Rom 8:31-34

To those afflicted by tribulations of all sorts, Paul proclaims his unshakable conviction: God’s love for them and all of us is boundless.

R – A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died – or, rather, was raised – who also is at the right hand of God, and who indeed intercedes for us.

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Verse before the Gospel

All – *(Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!)*

From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard: “This is my beloved Son, listen to him!”

(Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!)

Gospel Mk 9:2-10

In the episode of Jesus’ transfiguration, we have the revelation of who he is (the Son of God). The voice from the cloud tells us also what our at-

titude to him should be (“Listen to him.”)

P – The Lord be with you!
All – And with your spirit!

P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All – Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain, apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then *Elijah* appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for *Elijah*.” He hardly knew what to say for they were so terrified.

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them. From the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone except when the *Son of Man* had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what “rising from the dead” meant.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith
(Nicene Creed)

All – I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus

GLOSSARY: • **Moriah:** The mountain on which Abraham was expected to offer his son Isaac in sacrifice. According to ancient tradition, Moriah is the hill in Jerusalem where Solomon built the temple. • **Elijah:** The greatest of the early prophets of Israel. He exercised his ministry in the 9th century B.C. He was a strenuous defender of the uniqueness of the Lord against the worship of false gods. Gradually the expectation developed in Israel that Elijah would “return” immediately before the coming of the Messiah. • **Son of Man:** A messianic title which Jesus used on many occasions, referring to himself. The O.T. background to this title is Dn 7:13.

Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –The splendor of the Transfiguration counteracts and helps us accept the sad reality of the cross in the life of Christ, as well as in ours. Trusting in the unflinching love of the Father for all of us, we say:

All—Lord, hear our prayer!

C –For the Church: May she faithfully accomplish her mission to proclaim to all nations that Jesus is the only Savior. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the Holy Father, our Bishop and all other spiritual leaders: May they constantly trust in God’s love even in the midst of affliction and opposition. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For those who are undergoing severe trials: May they find in the Lord the source of their

consolation and strength. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For those who feel confused and uncertain: May they find meaning for their lives in the teaching and life of Jesus. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all of us: May we live this Lenten season in total availability to do what God wants, in imitation of Abraham and Jesus Christ. Let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*) Let us pray! **R.**

P –God our Father, Source of all strength and consolation, make us faithful to You till death, following the example of Jesus Your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Lent (2nd Sun.)

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the

holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim: **All—Holy, holy, holy . . .**

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!



All—Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever!

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(*To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.*)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Prayer after Communion

P –As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.
All – **And with your spirit!**

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. (*Pause*) Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord, with a blessing that endures for ever, and keep them faithful to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son, so that they may always desire and at last attain that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body, to the amazement of his Apostles. Through Christ our Lord.

All – **Amen!**

P – May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All – **Amen!**

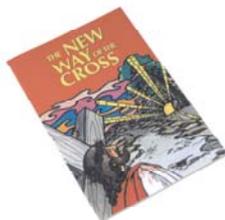
P –Go in peace and live in the presence of the Lord.

All – **Thanks be to God!**



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The Best Teacher

The world is like an immense “learning center” in which most of the teaching is done in an informal manner. All of us are “learners” because all of us have plenty to learn. On the other hand, all of us are also teachers, even if we may not climb the rostrum of a lecture hall and do not follow detailed syllabi



and lesson plans. With so many “teachers,” and surrounded by divergent opinions and schools of thought, many may often feel confused. It need not be so for us, for **in making our profession of faith, we acknowledge JESUS CHRIST as our best and most trusted TEACHER. He is the only one who deserves such title.** (See Mt 23:10.) He is the teacher given to us by the Father to teach the truths that really matter in life.

Jesus, the Teacher of all men, is “different” from all other teachers. He is “different” in *what he is, in what he teaches, and in the way he teaches it.*

He is no ordinary teacher because **he is no ordinary man.** The closest among his disciples were the first to realize it. They had begun to wonder who that man could be who had the power to quell storms and cast out devils. (See Mk 4:31 and 1:27.) In the episode of the transfiguration, the radiant aspect of Jesus’ whole person revealed the divinity hidden in him, and the voice of the Father confirmed that visual revelation. **“This is my Son, my beloved. Listen to him!”** (Mk 9:7).

Jesus does not repeat half-assimilated notions. He brings a teaching that is new and vital. **Being the only one who knows the Father perfectly, he has come to reveal Him to all men.** (See Jn 1:18.) Jesus’ words are filled with divine wisdom, a wisdom he wants to share with us to make our joy full. (See Jn 16:24.) That is why the Father enjoins his disciples: “Listen to him!”

He is also different from the teachers of his time. “They bind up heavy loads on other men’s shoulders, while they themselves will not lift a finger to budge them” (Mt 23:4). **Jesus is a teacher who teaches by example, even before teaching by words. His whole life is his most impressive “lesson.”**

Through it and through his preaching, **Jesus introduces us to the mysterious wisdom of the cross and injects in us the hope of the Resurrection.** His message is essentially one of love and life. It is usually pleasant to hear, but demanding. It requires selflessness and the courage to take up one’s cross and carry it patiently after him.

This should not scare us away. **Jesus, our Teacher, walks ahead of us, burdened with the sin of the whole world. He reminds us that after the suffering of this life, there is a wonderful “new life” to be enjoyed for ever.**