

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God in heaven,  
you gave the apostles courage  
by showing them a glimpse  
of the victory that would be won  
by your Son after his death.  
Make us always true to him,  
quick to overcome our fear,  
and trust in his Resurrection.  
We ask you to do this  
through Jesus Christ,  
who lives with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
forever and ever.

### FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

While the relationship between the two readings may not be evident, both focus on God's call to participate in salvation history and to do so with trust and confidence.

In our first reading, Abraham is called to leave the security of home and venture forth to share in God's plan. Abraham has only God's word for it: no road map, no travelogue, and no reservations. He has only the promise that God will bless him and all families of the earth because of him.

In the Gospel, Peter, James and John are also called to participate in God's plan. But, true to the New Testament, they are given a glimpse of what their participation will involve. In the Transfiguration of Jesus, the disciples see a preview of their future glory. Like Jesus, we are called to live in light and splendor. Abraham's immediate requirement was "leave your country." Our immediate requirement is "listen to him."

### FIRST READING: *Genesis 12:1-5*

*This is a reading from the book of Genesis.*

This is what God said to Abraham:

"Leave your country and your relatives,  
and go to a place that I will show you.  
You and your family  
are going to become a great nation  
because I will bless you.  
Everyone will honor your name,  
and you will be a blessing to them.  
All the families of the earth  
will be blessed because of you."

So Abraham went, just as God told him.  
[Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran.  
He took his wife, Sarah; his nephew, Lot;  
all his servants, and everything he owned  
and left for the land of Canaan.]

### *The Word of the Lord.*

[ ] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

### RESPONSE: *Psalm 33*

RESPONSE:



Lord, be with us, with your love, be with us,



all our hope is in you.

VERSES:



1. For your faith - ful word and all you  
2. ( ) We are cho - sen, God, by



1. do, all your works we trust in you,  
2. you. Bless us all, we trust in you,

to Response



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



"This is Je - sus my Son, lis - ten, his words are for you."

After Gospel, repeat Acclamation

## GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

One day Jesus took Peter, James, and James' brother John up on a high mountain, away from everyone.

While they were there, his face changed and shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

Suddenly, the disciples saw Moses and Elijah there, talking with Jesus. Peter said,

"Lord, it's good for us to be here!

If you want me to, I will make three tents—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was still talking, the shadow of a cloud came over them, and a voice came from the cloud saying,

"This is my Son, whom I love very much. Listen to him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and covered their faces because they were afraid.

But Jesus came and touched them and said,

"Get up. Don't be afraid."

And when they looked up, they saw only Jesus standing there.

When they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus told them,

"Don't tell anyone what you have seen until I am raised from the dead."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Obviously, while God asked Abraham to leave his home and relatives, God does not ask children to leave their homes and families as a sign of faith. To pose this as a possible response to God may even be frightening to children. You can, however, explore with the children how they, at their age, can show their faith in God's call.

In your reflections on the Gospel, ask the children what they heard. After they have had time to share that, you may wish to lead them with questions such as:

- Who did Jesus take with him to the mountain?
- What happened while they were there?
- Who did Peter, James and John see with Jesus?
- What did Peter say? What did Peter, James and John hear God say?

Ask the children if they have ever seen previews of coming attractions on television or in a theater. Help them understand that previews tell us what the coming attraction is going to be and help us look forward to it.

Help them see that, at the Transfiguration, Jesus was giving a preview of what he will be like after the Resurrection. He was also showing us that we will be like him. We will live with him in glory. As Jesus was showing this to Peter, James and John, God told them what we must do to live with Jesus forever.

Do you remember what God said to Peter, James and John? God tells us, too, "*This is my beloved Son; listen to him.*"

How do we listen to Jesus today

- in the Bible?
- in our parents and others who teach us?
- in the good thoughts we have that encourage us to do the right thing?

