

Read

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalm 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9,
13-14

Philippians 3:17-4:1 or
3:20-4:1

Luke 9:28b-36

LIVING THE WORD

Second Sunday of Lent

March 13, 2022



REFLECTION

The familiar story of the transfiguration of Jesus makes one thing clear: prayer changes us. We encounter the divine now and will be joined with the divine at the end of our days. The divine rouses us out of sleep and sparks us fully awake. This transformation process can be frightening. Just as a cloud came over Peter, James, John, and Jesus as they prayed together on the mountaintop, so too does God overcome us at times when we pray. The divine engulfs us—and then what? Do we cower in fear and cling to the familiar ways of life? Or do we heed God’s command to listen? How might God be asking us to listen?

- ✧ Listen to my beloved Son, who took on your pain out of the deepest, everlasting love for you.
- ✧ Listen to my beloved Son, who also felt abandoned, unsure, and profoundly anxious.
- ✧ Listen to my beloved Son, who grieved the loss of friends and the changing of relationships.
- ✧ Listen to my beloved Son, who trusted in times of trial, who took the next step even when the path way dark, who loved fully and always.
- ✧ Listen to my beloved Son.



ACTION

How will prayer change you this Lent? The Church invites us to enter more deeply into prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during these sacred forty days. Try a new prayer practice or one you haven’t tried in a while, such as the Ignatian Examen, lectio divina, the Rosary, adoration, or the Liturgy of the Hours. (The internet is full of great guides and explanations if needed!)



Share your favorite prayer practice with friends on your social media pages. Encourage one another to try a new one each week!



QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today’s readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ How does God speak to you?
- ❖ What have been some “mountaintop moments” in your life?



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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

LECTIONARY #27C

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Philippians 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1

Luke 9:28b-36

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Every year on the Second Sunday of Lent we hear the wonderful account of the transfiguration. This Gospel passage reminds us that our lives are transformed by our encounter with Christ. When we encounter him, all of our worries vanish and we feel fully at peace. We feel the pure joy of God's grace running through our veins. The challenge of this reading is for us to keep that encounter with us as we go down the mountain and back to our daily lives. We are called to help others encounter Christ through our daily actions.

Q FOCUS: *The transfiguration of Jesus gives us a glimpse of heaven, a reality we also experience during the liturgy.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

On Saturday, March 19, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although we do not know much about Joseph from the Gospel accounts, the little that we do know shows us that he was open to God's transformative grace in his life. Joseph accepted the responsibility of caring for and protecting the Holy Family. He chose to follow God's will rather than his own. He is a model for us of how our encounter with God can transform our entire life. St. Joseph is celebrated as the patron saint of the Universal Church, fathers, workers, and several countries.

Church Teaching Connection

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her. . . . The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms" (*Evangelii gaudium*, 3).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

Gospel

Luke 9:28b-36

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and

one for Elijah.” But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.” After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

Transformation isn't always easy, but it is an essential part of life. We all experience some form of transformation, or change, every day. Our relationships, interests, and goals can change frequently. Even though the process can be unsettling, we ultimately grow in our knowledge of self and others.

► **How do you think Peter, James, and John were transformed or changed by their experience on the mountain with Jesus?**

Just as Jesus was transfigured, God calls each of us to be transfigured every day. It is a process. As Christians we constantly strive to love more generously, live more graciously, and practice greater hospitality. We work to include the excluded, to promote peace, and to turn away from hate, selfishness, and sinful actions. When we do these things, we are changing our lives to become more like Jesus. Take some time to consider this idea of transformation in your own life.

► **How is God calling you to transfigure your own life?**

► **How is God calling you to transfigure the world?**

► **What are some things that keep you from being transfigured?**

Part of being transfigured is simply the willingness to be open to God's work in your life. Peter trusted Jesus although he could not fully understand what was happening. Even so, Peter, James, and John all recognized they were in the presence of God.

► **What are some of the ways you know that you are in the presence of God?**

Peter, James and John hear God's voice from the heavens telling them to listen to Jesus because he is God's Son. We have the opportunity to listen to God's word every time we hear the Scripture proclaimed at Mass. We know that the Scripture stories we hear at Mass aren't just any stories; they are the Word of God. This is even emphasized by the dialogue at the end of the readings when the lector says, "The Word of the Lord." We respond, "Thanks be to God," acknowledging that what we have just heard is truly God's Word. The same is true for the Gospel when the priest or deacon says, "The Gospel of the Lord," and we respond, "Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ." We affirm that what we have heard is not just the retelling of a story but the voice of God speaking directly to us through the Scripture text.

► **What are some of the ways you pray with Scripture?**

Spending time in prayer with the Word of God in the Scriptures helps us to transform our lives. We believe that that the kingdom of God is both now and not yet. Even during Lent, Christians are still an Easter people. We live each day in the joy of Christ's victory over sin and death, yet we know that there is still so much sin and sadness in our world. We strive to transform the world into a better image of God's kingdom. Even so, we wait for the day when we will fully live in the joy of the glorified Christ in heaven, the very thing Peter, James, and John experienced ever-briefly on the mountain with Jesus.

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 146.

Just as Jesus was transfigured, we are each called to transformation in our own lives.

Like Peter, James, and John on the mountain, we are always in the presence of God.

We encounter the Word of God in Scripture, both proclaimed in liturgy and prayed privately or with a community.

Act on the Word

Group Lectio Divina

One way to have a deeper encounter with the Word of God in the Scripture is through the practice of lectio divina. *Lectio divina*, or “divine reading,” is an ancient prayer practice that has been used by Christians throughout history. Invite everyone in the group to move to a comfortable space in the room for this prayer time. Spread out and dim the lights to create a prayerful environment. Invite everyone to spend a few moments in silence to prepare themselves for prayer. Then, use the following steps to lead the teens in this modified lectio divina exercise.

- ✧ Step 1: Choose your Scripture passage. In this case, use today’s Gospel for your prayer.
- ✧ Step 2: Read through the passage slowly aloud, savoring each word. There is no rush. When you have finished, invite the teens to consider any words or phrases that speak to them in a special way. What stood out to them as they listened? Encourage the teens to think about and pray with this word or phrase as you move on to step 3

- ✧ Step 3: Read the passage aloud again, in a similar manner.
- ✧ Step 4: After a few moments of silent prayer and reflection, invite the teens to share their word or phrase with the rest of the group. If time permits, invite students to discuss why that word or phrase seems significant.
- ✧ Step 5: Share a prayer of thanksgiving for this period of prayer. Encourage the young people to think about how God is calling them to transformation this week, especially in light of their word or phrase from this lectio divina activity. If time permits, the teens can share their responses.

Closing Prayer

O God,
how good it is for us to be with you,
and know of your presence in our lives.
Help us to build tents of justice, love, and light
that shower others with the goodness
of compassion that you have given us.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends. If your parish will be celebrating the first scrutiny with those preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil, the Year A readings may be used. The handout and session for the Year A readings are found in the appendix of this book on pages 239–242.