

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a,  
10-13, 15-18

Psalms 116:10, 15, 16-17,  
18-19

Romans 8:31b-34

Mark 9:2-10

## Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024



### REFLECTION

There is usually a part in a superhero movie where the hero's secret identity is revealed. Whether the heroes are unmasked by the villain, or tell the truth to their friends, their identity is discovered. This analogy helps us to better understand today's Gospel passage, in which Jesus took his close friends up the mountain and revealed his true identity to them. Jesus doesn't say it himself, but the actions and words of others point to who he really is. Robed in bright white, chatting with legendary figures from Israel's past, a voice from heaven proclaims Jesus as the Son of God.

This moment in Jesus' life does not come at the end, but in the middle of his ministry. Though he is God, he still must undergo great suffering for the people he loves. His transfiguration is a moment to strengthen his followers by helping them grow in their understanding of who Jesus really is.

We can also learn from this moment. Jesus is God and yet he will undergo tremendous suffering and pain. We too will suffer in our lives, but we can draw strength from knowing that we will not face our challenges alone. Jesus will walk with us because he is God's Son. So let us listen to him.

### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Where have you seen God's glory shine in your life?
- ❖ In what areas of your life do you need God's closeness today?



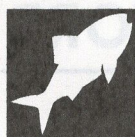
### ACTION

On the mountaintop Jesus reveals himself as the Son of God. In the valley below, his mettle is tested. While it would be great to live our lives on mountaintops, we know that our daily struggle is in the valley. Journal about your personal mountaintop moments, when you felt close to God, and the valleys where you need God's presence and strength.



"Hills and Valleys"—Tauren Wells <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4rRCjrAyCs>





February 25, 2024

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### LECTIONARY #26B

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

Romans 8:31b-34

Mark 9:2-10

## 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

Today's Gospel is about the transfiguration of Jesus. After bringing three of his disciples up a mountain, his body is transfigured before them and his clothes are white as light. This event occurs shortly after Jesus' first prediction of his suffering and death. The truth of the upcoming sorrow is now framed with the hope of the glory to come. The teens can relate to the reaction of the disciples, who didn't know what to do when faced with the glory of God. However, they, just like the disciples, are called to listen to Jesus' teachings and to keep in mind all of the ways God is present to them.

**Q FOCUS:** *Contemplate God's glory.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

March is traditionally designated as the month of St. Joseph. During this upcoming month, we can reflect on who Joseph was, how he helped to shape the life of the Holy Family, and his role in the Church today. He is the patron of many things, including fathers, workers, a happy death, and the universal Church. This a great time to take up special prayers to help develop or deepen a relationship with him. Some suggestions for devotions include the Litany of St. Joseph, the St. Joseph Novena, or the Chaplet of St. Joseph. Consider reading Pope Francis' apostolic letter *Patris corde*, which describes the characteristics of Joseph and how he lived out his faith.

### Church Teaching Connection

"We, pilgrims on earth, are granted to rejoice in the company of the transfigured Lord when we immerse ourselves in the things of above through prayer and the celebration of the divine mysteries. But, like the disciples, we too must descend from Tabor into daily life where human events challenge our faith. On the mountain we saw; on the paths of life we are asked tirelessly to proclaim the Gospel which illuminates the steps of believers" (Pope John Paul II, Address, August 6, 1999).

## 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

Mark 9:2-10

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Mark.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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, 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.

**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:*

A few verses before today's Gospel reading of Jesus' transfiguration, Jesus tells his disciples about the suffering and rejection that will happen to him (see Mark 8:31–33). Then, as we hear today, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain to share with them a glimpse of the glory to come. In both situations, the disciples don't fully understand what Jesus is talking about. At the end of today's reading, we even hear that the disciples were trying to figure it out.

► What do you think some of their questions might have been? What would you have wanted to know?

The word "transfiguration" indicates a change that occurs in the appearance or form of a thing. In this instance, Jesus' body takes on a glorified and radiant change. It points to Christ's divinity and his glorification to come with the resurrection. The revelation of his suffering before this event and the glory of the transfiguration express that the hope and joy of the resurrection far surpass any suffering that may come.

► Put yourselves in the place of Peter, James, and John after Jesus' death. Do you think you would have remembered this event of the transfiguration at that time? If so, how might it help you understand Jesus' death? If not, what other things might be on your mind?

When we are in difficult situations it is often the case that we can't see past the troubles of the moment. But God is constantly giving us glimpses of his glory, his promise, and his hope. When we encounter that glory, we might not know how to react to the experience. In the Gospel it says the disciples were so scared they didn't know what to do. And sometimes, that glimpse of God's life and light isn't as big as Jesus' transfiguration. Maybe it is the feeling of contentment when you are surrounded by friends and family. Maybe it is a feeling of comfort during Mass or feeling awe at seeing the sunrise.

► What are some things you can do to recognize God's presence more clearly?

At the transfiguration, the disciples might not have known what to do, but they clearly heard God instructing them to listen to Jesus. This is important for us to do as well. When we listen to Jesus, when we read his words in the Gospels and model our life after his, we become better equipped to see the glory of God all around us.

## 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 142.*

**Christ must first suffer, and then be glorified.**

**Rejoice in your experiences of God and reflect on them to come to a deeper relationship with him.**

**Listen to the voice of Jesus in your life.**



# Act on the Word

## The Fourth Luminous Mystery

For this activity, you will need rosaries (one for each person to use) and copies of the script below for each teen.

Briefly explain to the teens that the Rosary is a set of prayers in which we ask Mary to pray for us as we reflect on the mysteries of Christ's life. The Luminous Mysteries (mysteries of light) reflect on some of the miracles and teachings of Jesus. The transfiguration is the fourth Luminous Mystery of the Rosary. Distribute the rosaries to the teens and explain that that you will be praying a scriptural decade of the Rosary based on the Gospel for today (Mark 9:2-10). They can use the rosaries to mark their place in the prayer, beginning with an "Our Father" bead and then moving along the "Hail Mary" beads as the Scripture verses are read and the Hail Marys are prayed. You can have one teen lead the entire decade or choose a few teens to take turns reading the Scripture references below. Everyone should pray the Our Father, Hail Marys, and Glory Be together.

Leader: The fourth Luminous Mystery, the transfiguration. Let us pray together: *Our Father*. . .

Reader: "Jesus took Peter, James and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves." Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them." Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus." Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, 'Rabbi, it is good that we are here!'" Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified." Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.'" Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them." Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "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." Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Reader: "So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant." Let us pray together: *Hail Mary*. . .

Leader: Let us close by reciting together: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

## Closing Prayer

Lord of heaven and earth,  
we do not readily accept  
or even understand the challenges  
of following your Son.

As we struggle to be his disciples,  
help us persevere in joy and hope.

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](http://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 243-246.