

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



REFLECTION

Surrounded by a mysterious and divine cloud, the disciples heard the voice of God speak clearly to them: “listen to him!” (Luke 9:35) These three simple words sum up our prayer life and our Lenten journey: let us listen to Jesus. But how?

Often in prayer we spend a lot of time talking. We use beloved traditional prayers like the Our Father and the Hail Mary. We tell Jesus about our challenges and concerns. We pray with familiar words and songs during the Mass. These prayers are not bad things; they are an important part of our faith. But how much of our time is spent listening to Jesus? Do we spend time quieting ourselves, putting away our screens, being in silence?

Lent is the perfect time to enter into a space of listening. Jesus took his friends up the mountain, away from the distractions, to help them hear. Jesus is inviting us to walk into the desert of Lent with him and to hear him. The notifications on our phones will continue to beep and vibrate and call for our attention. It takes strength to put that aside. Don't let Jesus be just another thing that calls for your attention, give him your attention! When you do, you'll start to notice him everywhere.



QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What distractions do you want to limit so that you can hear Jesus' voice more clearly?
- ❖ Where can you go to find more silence and quiet in your noisy and distracting world?

Second Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2025



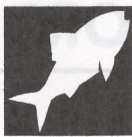
ACTION

Challenge yourself to ten minutes of silence each day this week. Carve out time in your schedule to sit in silence, not distracted by screens or other people. Sometimes early in the morning or late at night work best for this. During this time of silence, the temptation may be to fill it with words, even good words like prayers. Instead, focus on relaxing your body, quieting your mind and heart, letting go of the concerns of your day, and simply be in the presence of Jesus.



“Prayer to the Holy Spirit
(by Saint Augustine)”—

Francesca LaRosa https://youtu.be/nF2bHZ_WUKQ



March 16, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

LECTIONARY #27C

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

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

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

On the Second Sunday of Lent, we move from the temptation of Jesus in the desert to the divine glory shown in Jesus' transfiguration. Although the disciples who are with Jesus do not fully understand what is happening, they trust in his relationship with God and witness a vision of his coming glory. This comes in the midst of Jesus' predictions of his passion and death and his teachings on the cost of discipleship. It provides a sign of hope and life. Through it all, Jesus' example of prayer reminds us that in all moments of life, the difficult ones and the joyful ones, we should turn to God in prayer and listen to what Jesus tells us.

Q FOCUS: *Prayer has the power to transform our lives.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

The month of March is most often associated with St. Patrick, the great fifth-century missionary and bishop in Ireland. We celebrate his feast day on March 17. Tradition credits him with explaining the mystery of the Trinity, the three persons in one God, with a shamrock. Many legends surround Patrick, but what we do know is that through his dedication to his call by God, he brought the Gospel to many people in Ireland. During March, our church also celebrates, albeit in a quieter way, St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. Joseph's feast day is on March 19, but our Church also dedicates the entire month of

March to his honor. In doing so, we acknowledge and celebrate the profound impact Joseph has had in our faith and in the life of Jesus. Joseph reminds us that we all can play a role in the history of salvation when we respond faithfully to God's calling.

Church Teaching Connection

"[T]his Lent, let us also go up the mountain with Jesus! But in what way? With prayer. Let us climb the mountain with prayer: silent prayer, heartfelt prayer, prayer that always seeks the Lord. Let us pause for some time in reflection, a little each day, let us fix our inner gaze on his countenance and let us allow his light to permeate us and shine in our life" (Pope Francis, Angelus Message, March 17, 2019).

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:

Some refer to Luke's Gospel as the "Gospel of Prayer." Jesus is seen praying in Luke more than the three other Gospels. The abundance of prayer points to the devoutness of Jesus and his disciples. The prayers of Jesus also give us a glimpse into Jesus' heart in different situations and important moments of life. They show us how Jesus would continue to care for his disciples after he was gone. When we read in Luke's Gospel that Jesus is praying, we should pay special attention to what is happening, as his prayer reveals the depth of his power and relationship to God.

► **What are some of the moments in your life in which you turn to God in prayer?**

In today's reading, Jesus goes up to the mountaintop to pray. In ancient times, mountains were believed to be places that were literally and spiritually closest to God. They were considered sacred and a symbol of the journey to God. When we hear of Jesus going up to the mountain to pray, it indicates a movement

toward God, to move away from the distractions of the earth and find God in the stillness of the mountaintop.

► **How can you go up the "mountain" to meet God in prayer? What might that look like today in your life?**

Something much more than prayer happens in this mountaintop experience. First, Peter, James, and John fall asleep. Then Jesus, while he is at prayer, is transfigured by the radiance of God. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, appear. They represent Jesus' continuity with the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah). The disciples awake to these sights. They don't fully understand what they were witnessing; they were not quite ready to see the true identity of Jesus. Despite this, they trusted Jesus. They recognized that they were in the presence of God and wanted to celebrate and honor that experience.

► **Can you imagine yourself there on the mountaintop with Jesus and disciples? What do you notice? How does the experience change you?**

Spiritual transformation is not easy, but when we obey God's call to listen to Jesus, we open ourselves up to allow his grace to work in our lives. Our relationship with Jesus changes us. In baptism, we enter into Jesus' death and resurrection and become adopted children of God. Like Jesus, we too can pray "Our Father." When we enter into prayer and listen for Christ's Word and recognize his presence in our lives, we are transformed as Jesus was.

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 158.

By praying, Jesus showed his closeness to God.

When we pray, we too become closer to God.

Our relationship with Jesus transforms us.

Act on the Word

Acting out the Transfiguration

For this activity, you will need an image of Raphael's painting *The Transfiguration* (it can be viewed online), several copies of today's Gospel reading, and various costume materials.

As a large group, look at the painting *The Transfiguration* by the well-known Renaissance artist Raphael. Ask the teens what they see in the painting, which is based on the Gospel reading today. Explain that the bottom portion of the painting depicts the next passage in Luke, the healing of a boy who is possessed (see Luke 9:37–43). What emotions or feelings does the painting evoke? Ask them again what they would feel if they were present at Jesus' transfiguration.

After you have finished discussing the painting, tell the teens that they will be presenting the transfiguration today as a play. Allow them to work together as a large group to plan and perform their play. You can give them some guidance and they can reference the Gospel reading if they need inspiration. Allow them to cast the parts, write out their lines, find or make costumes using whatever is available, choose a director, a stage manager—whatever

they need to perform the scene. Make sure that everyone is involved in some way. Give them enough time to practice and work together to perform the scene.

When they are ready, have the teens perform their play. When they are finished, ask them how reenacting the scene helped them understand the Gospel better. What parts of the story stood out to them the most? Which person in the scene did they resonate with?

Closing Prayer

God,

not everything your Son did was
understandable to those who
were with him.

And yet they knew what was good.

In the midst of the mystery of our lives,
draw us closer to yourself through prayer
so that we may see the good works
of Christ in the world
and give him thanks.

Who lives and reigns for ever.

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 247–250.