

# Read

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

## LIVING THE WORD

### Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021



#### REFLECTION

The Transfiguration of Jesus challenges us to see things differently. When Peter, James and John saw Jesus transfigured before them, they learned something new about their friend. Even though they had known Jesus for some time, they still did not fully understand Jesus' relationship with the Father or Jesus' own divine identity. For this to happen, though, the Apostles had to first be willing to see with new eyes. Think about your life today. As Christians, we are called to see differently every day because we look through the eyes of Christ. We can see the glory of God revealed in every person, just like Peter, James, and John experienced on the mountain with Jesus.



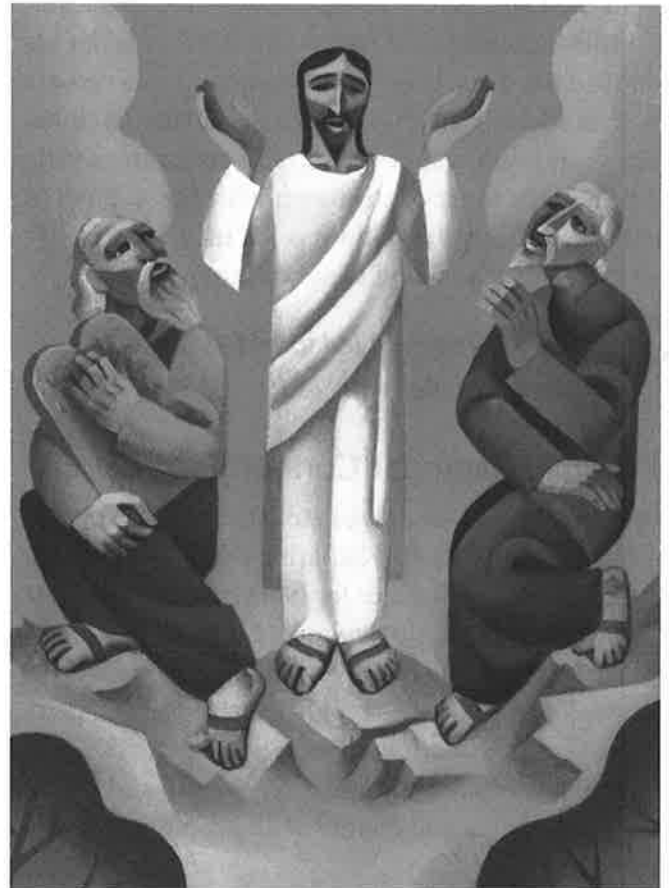
#### ACTION

Today's Gospel passage is especially unusual as it has characters from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Moses and Elijah are very important figures in the history of the Israelites. Use a Bible to learn more about Moses and Elijah. The story of Moses' life begins in the Book of Exodus. Begin there and read about how God used Moses to liberate the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. You can read about the prophet Elijah in 1 and 2 Kings. His story begins in 1 Kings, chapter 17. Elijah spoke God's Word and reminded the Israelites to worship God alone and place their trust in God.



#### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What are some areas in your own life that need to be transfigured and transformed?
- ❖ The disciples did not want to leave the mountain. When have you had an experience of God that you did not want to leave or let go?





# February 28, 2021

## 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 reading gives us a "mountaintop experience," a moment so inspiring and transformative that we never want to leave. Jesus brings his closest followers to reveal himself in glory as the Son of God. Appearing with him are Moses and Elijah, two major figures from the Old Testament who represent the Law and the Prophets, showing that Jesus is within this tradition and is the fulfillment of all that God has done before this moment. Jesus reveals his true identity in this passage and the disciples want to stay on the mountaintop forever. But as with all things, we must continue on with life and complete the mission that God has for us, to follow his will and share the Good News of Jesus.

**Q FOCUS:** *We are called to be transformed by our encounter with Jesus.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

On March 3, we celebrate the memorial of St. Katharine Drexel. St. Katharine worked to improve educational opportunities for Native Americans and African Americans throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although she grew up in a wealthy family, she recognized the call of Christ to serve others who were marginalized. She was instrumental in founding many schools and advocated for the right and dignity of all people, no matter their race.

### Church Teaching Connection

"From the event of the Transfiguration I would like to take two significant elements that can be summed up in two words: ascent and descent. We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to 'descend the mountain' and return to the plain where we meet many brothers weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance, poverty both material and spiritual. To these brothers in difficulty, we are called to bear the fruit of that experience with God, by sharing the grace we have received" (Pope Francis, *Angelus* Message, March 16, 2014).

## 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:*

In today's amazing and awe-inspiring Gospel, Jesus takes three of his closest friends to the top of a mountain. In the Gospel, we often read of Jesus going to a mountaintop to pray, away from the crowds. In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals his true identity to those who have been following him. While there are other instances of Jesus' identity being proclaimed by others, this Gospel passage is unique in that Jesus appears physically different. Jesus was transfigured, and even the clothes he wore bore the weight his true identity.

► **Who are your closest friends? Do they know the “real you”?**

► **How do we reveal ourselves to others? How do we help them get to know the “real us”?**

Not only does Jesus begin to radiate this light, but two figures appear next to him; Moses and Elijah. These two great men of the Old Testament were legendary figures. God worked through Moses to liberate the Israelites from the Egyptians. Moses also

received the Ten Commandments from God. Elijah was an important prophet, who was taken to heaven in a fiery whirlwind. What do these two Old Testament figures do when they see Jesus? They chat with him! On this mountain, the superstars of history are talking with Jesus as friends, as the disciples must have done a thousand times.

► **What do you think they were talking about?**

► **How do you think seeing these important Old Testament figures helped the disciples understand who Jesus was?**

Peter, amazed by what he sees, suggests that they never leave. His friend and teacher, Jesus, is glowing and bathed in light. Heroes of old have appeared. This is the greatest day of Peter's life. What does he say? Let's never leave. I want to stay here in this light with these amazing people forever on this mountaintop. He was experiencing a small glimpse of the glory of God.

► **What was the greatest day of your life? What are some of your fondest memories?**

► **What is your mountaintop moment? When have you felt closest to God and wanted to remain in that moment forever?**

If Moses and Elijah weren't enough, the voice of God proclaims Jesus as the Son of God. We are reminded of a similar event at Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:9–11), where God proclaims the same thing. These signs from God are illuminating, helping the disciples to understand who Jesus is and what his purpose is. This is helpful for the disciples, but what about us, now? They witnessed Jesus transform in glory. They saw important people from their history. They heard God's voice. It seemed easy for them.

► **What do we have that tells us who Jesus is?**

► **Where do we witness God's presence on earth?**

► **How do we listen to God and believe?**

The disciples don't stay on the mountain. They come back down. Back to their friends and family, back to the doubters and the haters, back to the pain of indifference. We know they go on to see their Lord and Master get crucified and killed. They themselves will suffer for Christ's sake. We too must

come down from the mountain and go back to the world. However, we hold fast to God's revelation in the person of Jesus. Jesus reveals his glory to us through the sacraments, the Church, and in our lives. At the end of every Mass, we are sent out to reflect the light we have witnessed and be that light in the world.

## 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.*

**Peter, James, and John went up the mountain with Jesus and witnessed his true glory.**

**The experience of the transfiguration was truly awe-inspiring.**

**The disciples were not meant to stay on the mountain, but to go back down so that, strengthened by their witness, they could proclaim the gospel. We are meant to do the same.**

## Act on the Word

### Ascending and Descending the Mountain

To bring home the message of transformation during this season of Lent, the teens will be asked a series of questions that they will either stand up or sit down to answer. Keep the questions simple with yes or no answers. The teens will stand up if their answer is yes or remain seated if their answer is no.

Begin with easy questions and gradually move to more difficult or reflective that will eventually lead to a group discussion. Examples of questions include:

- ✧ Sunny days are better than rainy days.
- ✧ Math is easy for me.

✧ Oreos are the best cookie.

✧ I have experienced God in my life.

✧ I forgot my Lenten fast this week.

✧ I know someone whose prayers were answered.

✧ I can share God's love with someone this week.

Feel free to add your own questions tailored to your group. The goal is to help the young people begin to think about their experiences of God's glory in their lives.

After you have finished with the questions, break the teens into small groups and have them discuss some of their responses to the more reflective questions. Have them talk about how their encounters with God led them to "mountaintop experiences" and what they can do to keep that closeness present in their daily lives this Lent.

## Closing Prayer

*Lord Jesus,  
transfigured in glory,  
you are the hope of the world,  
and all the faithful look to you.  
On the mountain, you were recognized  
as perfectly obedient to the Father's will  
and from there you beckon us to the way  
of transformation.  
Teach us to follow in your footsteps,  
and so come to share in your glory.  
You live and reign with the Father in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and 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](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 239-242.*