

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Fullness of Life

God of the covenant,
in the Transfiguration you revealed Jesus as
your beloved Son.

Help us to see the glory of your Son
and forever be in awe of his presence.
Grant that, during our Lenten journey,
our hearts be filled with the light of
your Son

so that we might remain steadfast on the
path of discipleship

we committed to in Baptism.

Help us to empty ourselves and embrace
your Passion

so that, on the day of Resurrection,
we may joyfully share in the fullness of life.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Dazzling White



Today's Readings: Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Psalm 27:1, 7–8, 8–9, 13–14; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 9:28b–26. Take a few moments to pray with the Gospel. What image stays with you? My imagination was captured by the words “dazzling white.” What does this look like? Placing myself in the story, I began to wonder what it would have been like to accompany Jesus to this place. Would I have understood what was happening, or, like Peter, would I have wanted to set up camp and remain in the presence of God’s glorified Son? The words “dazzling white” brought to mind the white garment at Baptism and how when we come out of the waters of rebirth, after having died with Christ, we are clothed in dazzling white, a sign of our resurrection with him. Baptism isn’t just a ritual we enact but a covenant with

God, a covenant that demands faithfulness and action. We must come down from the mountain and journey with Christ and serve his people. Baptism changes us and redefines our relationship with God.

During this Lenten season, the whole Church walks with those preparing for Baptism. As we journey, each of us is asked once again to die to self so as to be open to the Light of Salvation. This Lenten journey will prepare us to renew our covenant at the Vigil of Easter so that we might recommit ourselves to the covenant made in Baptism and faithfully carry out Christ’s works. If possible, find your baptismal garment or some pictures from your Baptism and use them in your prayer with this Gospel.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 22, 2016

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Today's feast is not about a piece of furniture, but about the office of the pope, the shepherd who leads his flock on the right path. In the Gospel, Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God; Jesus chooses Peter to shepherd the Church. In what ways have you confessed that Jesus is the Son of God? Consider spending time reading 1 and 2 Peter during this week. *Today's Readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4, 5, 6; Matthew 16:13–19.*

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Be Humble

After reading the Gospel, the first thing that came to mind was “Practice what you preach.” When we set aside our sinful ways and allow the peace of Christ to rule our hearts, we seek justice and we strive to live genuinely. The religion the Pharisees practiced was about being noticed and being important. Jesus teaches us to set aside our selfish ways and to serve as he served. Discuss this Gospel at dinner and see what insights arise. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Cup of Salvation

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals his imminent Passion and Death. The crux of the story is centered on the sons of Zebedee (James and John). Jesus asks them if they can drink from the cup of his suffering and our salvation. They reply confidently. Every time we approach the Eucharistic table and drink from the cup of salvation, we say yes to suffering with Christ as well as living the joy of the Resurrection. Christ calls us to offer ourselves up in service to others. This week you might consider visiting the imprisoned or the homeless. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

Thursday, February 25, 2016

What Path?

Today's passages challenge us to reflect on our actions and our relationship with Jesus. Are you like the rich man who ignored the needs of his neighbors or like the blessed person, mentioned in Jeremiah, who trusts in the Lord? When we place our trust in the Lord, grace consumes us and we work for justice. When we follow the counsel of the wicked, we choose to separate ourselves from God's love. The beauty in these stories is that they call us to repent and hope in the Lord. Let this Lenten season be one of transformation and saying yes to Christ. Consider art as part of your prayer. Compose a song, write a story, draw, or paint a picture that helps you engage in the Gospel account. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, February 26, 2016

The Vineyard

Read the Gospel parable several times, but each time imagine yourself as a different character. How would you respond if you were the tenant? Who are the prophets among us who are calling us to loving and just relationships? When we respond to God's Word, we bear good fruit, but when we get caught up in our passions, we die. *Today's Readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, February 27, 2016

Loving and Forgiving

The refrain of the psalm sums up one of the main messages from today's readings. We are reminded in the Gospel that God will always welcome us home, no matter how serious our sin. The story of the prodigal son portrays God's love and mercy, showing how God rejoices over his beloved when they return to his embrace. Consider how it has felt to be forgiven. Have you been willing to show mercy to others? *Today's Readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*

