



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Sunday 28th February 2021

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

A: Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: If last Sunday could be nicknamed "Temptation Sunday", then today could be called "Transfiguration Sunday". Every year on this second Sunday of Lent we hear this remarkable story of how Jesus gave his closest friends a glimpse of his divine glory, in which he is revealed as God's beloved Son. It is as Son of God that he will go to the cross for us, a sacrifice almost impossible for us to comprehend. Let's pray today that this vision of the glory of the Son of God will help us understand his sacrifice. As we begin our prayers, we think of our Lenten journey and humbly ask for God's forgiveness:

Penitential Act

L: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

A: Lord, have mercy.

L: You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

A: Christ, have mercy

L: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

A: Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray.

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may

rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean. The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Mountains are strange places where remarkable things happen! In the first reading for Mass today we hear of the sacrifice of Abraham – on a mountain top! (see Genesis 22) In that story, which saw a new Covenant established

between God and his chosen people, Abraham's son Isaac was spared and escaped sacrifice. Another hill was Calvary, but on that height someone's son did not escape. That was Jesus, revealed today as God's beloved Son in a moment of glory on another mountaintop. All this shows us the immensity of God's love – Father, Son and Spirit – willing to embrace the most profound sacrifice. There is so much more in this story – the appearance of Moses and Elijah, standing for the Law and the Prophets (the validation of the sacrifice of Jesus as fulfilment of the Old Testament); the confusion and fear of Saint Peter and his companions; but perhaps most important is the promise of the resurrection, when the glory glimpsed today is fully revealed. Our journey of Lent leads to glory – though it may sometimes feel like climbing a mountain! But remember, remarkable things happen on mountains!

For our Younger Friends

When you are growing up you sometimes don't understand what's going on – especially what grown-ups are doing! Sometimes the world can seem to be a strange, mysterious place. Well, you're not alone – look at Saint Pater, Saint James and Saint John in today's Gospel story! They didn't know what was happening, when Jesus suddenly starting glowing like the sun! In fact, we even heard that they "were frightened." But Jesus doesn't want them to be frightened, or confused. Even though they don't understand, they trust Jesus. We call this "faith" – believing, even when we don't understand! You can always trust Jesus if you are puzzled

or afraid: make sure you talk to him in your prayers about things that worry you. And remember that there are grown-ups you can trust too, especially your family, and if there are things in life you don't understand, or even thing that are frightening, be brave and talk about them with someone who can help.

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

L: The love of God for us is revealed, when he did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all. Confident of God's love, let us offer our prayers for the Church and the world.

L: That the Church may shine as a light in our world, reflecting the glory of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy.

A: Hear our prayer.

L: That world leaders may have the courage and compassion to embrace transformation that benefits the poor, peace and the planet. Lord, in your mercy:

A: Hear our prayer.

L: That our lives may be transfigured by the Spirit to reflect the love of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy:

A: Hear our prayer.

L: That our deceased relatives and friends may behold the beauty of the Lord in the halls of heaven. Lord, in your mercy:

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: May our prayer, fasting and sacrifices, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Before Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, you did not spare your own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all. After he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church today, and not able to receive communion, we now open our minds and hearts to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

L: I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted,'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

L: Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; I will call on the Lord's name.

A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

L: My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

As we celebrate these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!