

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—March 17, 2019

## First Reading — Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

<sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a she-goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> And he brought him all these, cut them in two, and laid each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram; and lo, a dread and great darkness fell upon him.... <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14.

### R. (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?

### R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.

### R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.

Hide not your face from me;

do not in anger repel your servant.

You are my helper: cast me not off.

### R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;

be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

### R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

## Second Reading — Philippians 3:17-4:1

<sup>17</sup> Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself.

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<sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

## Gospel Reading — Luke 9:28-36

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And as he was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> And behold, two men talked with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and those who were with

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him were heavy with sleep, and when they wakened they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> As he said this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup> And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silence and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

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### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading — *Deut. 26:4-10*

1. How would you feel if you were in Abram's shoes (sandals)?
2. What makes a covenant, a covenant?

#### Second Reading — *Philippians 3:17-4:1*

3. Describe what it means to live as an enemy of the cross of Christ. What would the opposite be?
4. Who do you know that is a Christian example worth imitating? Why?

#### Gospel Reading — *Luke 9:28-36*

5. What possible meanings does Jesus' dazzling white raiment convey?
6. What similar messages encouraging us to "listen to Him," are you aware of in Scripture? How can we enhance our ability to listen to Jesus?
7. What insight could this incident provide regarding the communion of the Saints?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*