

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — March 8, 2020

First Reading — Genesis 12:1-4

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves." ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Responsorial Psalm PS 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22.

R. (22) **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right;

of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R. **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,

upon those who hope for his kindness,

To deliver them from death

and preserve them in spite of famine.

R. **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield.

May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.

R. **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Second Reading — 2 Timothy 1:8-10

⁸Do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, ¹⁰and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel Reading — Matthew 17:1-9

¹And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

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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 — Genesis 12:1-4

1. How would you respond if you were called from your family, friends, and country to follow God?

Second Reading — 2 Timothy 1:8-10

2. In this explanation of our calling, which actions are God's, and which actions are ours?
3. What do you think sometimes causes timidity and embarrassment within us when we have an opportunity to speak to someone about Christ?

Gospel Reading — Matthew 17:1-9

4. How do you think you would have responded in this situation if you were there with the disciples?
5. What are the messages of this transfiguration experience, and what are their meanings?
6. To what extent do you believe that Jesus is calling you to come apart from your busy activities to behold him?

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.