



# SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Second Sunday of Lent Year B

Sunday 28 Feb 2021

## The Introductory Rites

### Gathering

The Lectionary/Roman Missal or a Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

A short hymn might be sung.

### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

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

All:

**Amen.**

### Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be God  
who has reconciled us through Christ  
and renews us by his grace.

All:

**Blessed be God forever.**

## Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,  
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,  
we gather in God's name  
for when two or more come together  
God is always with us.

In union with the whole Church,  
we call upon the mercy of the Lord  
in this season of repentance and renewal.

## Opening Rite

### LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you call us to your holy mountain: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are our strength in times of uncertainty: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you plead for us at the right hand of the Father: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

**Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God in heaven  
your glory shines on the face of Jesus.  
Help us to listen to your Son  
and reflect your light to others  
so that all may know of your greatness.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

All:

**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

**Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**

A reading from the book of Genesis

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9**

**(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

1. I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**
2. 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. **(R.)**

3. 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. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

### **Rom 8:31-34**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to Mark.

All:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Mk 9:2-10**

*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

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.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All are seated.

## Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

- Q. Why is this transfiguration event regarded with such importance in the Church?
- Q. Why are the disciples portrayed as struggling to grasp the meaning of what they have seen?
- Q. Can you recall an experience of God that occurred to you at a mountaintop location?
- Q. Have you ever had the experience of not wanting to 'go back down the mountain'?
- Q. Why is this reading chosen for use in the season of Lent?

## Profession of Faith

Leader:

In union with the whole Church  
let us profess our faith.

All:

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

**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.**

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Brothers and sisters, let us make our prayers before God, the Father Almighty.

Reader: That Pope Francis will continue to lead the Universal Church in bearing witness to the words of Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That all who hold political and economic power will resist the temptation to serve themselves at the expense of others.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those trapped in darkness or sin will be set free by the shining light of the Transfigured Christ.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That through faith, our parish community will be strengthened through the promise of a glorious resurrection of our bodies.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the sick and housebound will hold firm in hope for the healing touch of Christ.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That all who have died will live forever with the Father of light in his eternal kingdom.

(pause)

In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy Father, your divine favour rests on your only Son Jesus Christ. Hear our prayers and give us your power to receive the words of your Son as the true light and glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

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

All:

**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.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## The Concluding Rite

### Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord bless us  
in all things through Christ  
so that we may work together  
in loving service.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

**Thanks be to God.**

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