

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Lk 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

*As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed,
and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Reflections on the Gospel



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / C

17 MARCH 2019

'THIS IS MY SON, LISTEN TO HIM!'

As Jesus sets out on the journey to Jerusalem, where he will suffer and die, the Transfiguration confirms the direction of his life and mission.

In Jewish thought of the time, the two prophetic figures, Moses and Elijah, were both expected to return in the messianic age. Hence Peter interprets the transfiguring of Jesus and the appearance alongside him of the two prophets, Moses and Elijah, as a sign that the time of messianic glory has arrived. His offer to make dwelling places for Jesus and the other two implies that all three are on the same level—an inadequate understanding sharply corrected when the voice (of God) from the cloud pronounces the true identity of Jesus: '... my Son, the Beloved', according him a status far outstripping that of Moses or Elijah.

The divine voice goes on to add: 'Listen to him'. Listen, that is, to what he has been saying about the direction his ministry will take. Precisely *as* God's Son he will go up to Jerusalem and accomplish the 'exodus' that is his Father's will for him. The allusion is clearly to Jesus' death. It is called 'exodus' because, although it will be a monstrous miscarriage of justice on the part of human authorities, it will also be a *divine liberation* comparable with, and indeed fulfilling, the Exodus from Egypt of old.

For the remainder of Lent, we are invited to accompany Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. This will be our essential preparation for a deep experience of the paschal mystery in Holy Week.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

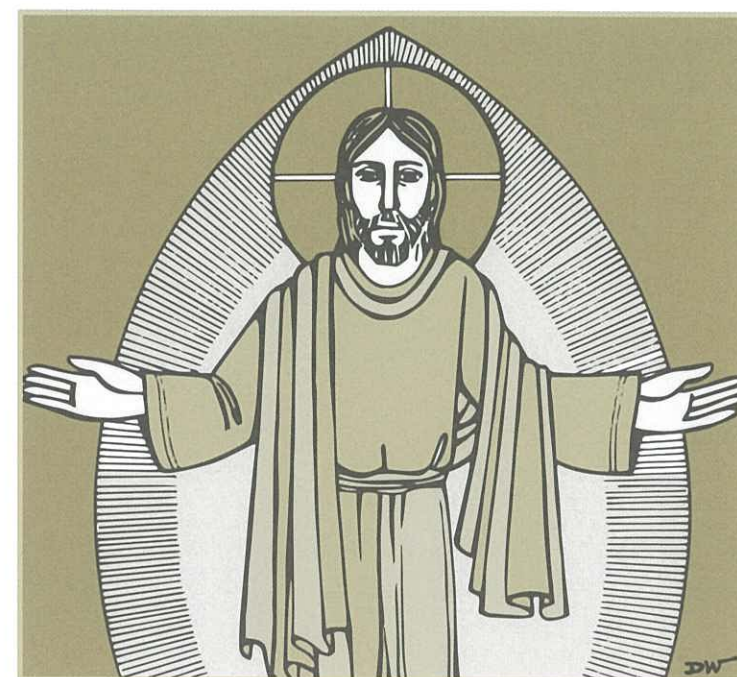
RESP PSALM

Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; / whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; / have mercy and answer. / Of you my heart has spoken: / 'Seek his face.' **R.**



3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; / hide not your face. / Dismiss not your servant in anger; / you have been my help. **R.**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness / in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 3:20-4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

*Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into
copies of his glorious body.*

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Longer form, Phil 3:17-4:1.