



Parish of the Holy Eucharist

Small Group Faith Sharing Material
2nd Sunday of Lent—March 12, 2017
Sunday Readings

Opening Prayer

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 one God, for ever and ever. AMEN

(source: The Roman Missal, Third Typical Edition)

MASS READINGS

Reading 1

Gn 12:1-4A

The LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you." Abram went as the LORD directed him.

The Word of the Lord

Commentary on Genesis

We see Abram (whose name later becomes Abraham) being called by God to go from among his people to a different land where he will be given a destiny as the father of all who believe. The name Abram means Great Father. His response of trusting faith in the God who called him has been hailed as the primary example of faith for many groups of believers. It is a faith that included risk to leave the land he knew and trust that God's words to him would be fulfilled even if it seemed otherwise. The Jewish, the Islamic, and the Christian traditions claim Abram as their common father since he was the first to believe. He is with us still as we leave our origins in sinful alienation and follow God toward a destiny of reconciliation and salvation.

QUESTIONS

1. What promise did God make to Abram?
2. In what ways are you called to imitate Abram's faith in your own life?

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

R. 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.

Reading 2

2 Tim 1:8B-10

Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

Commentary on 2 Timothy

Living in a hostile pagan environment, the Church, which is growing rapidly, has to be reminded of its roots in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, of its commitment to the faith, and of the journey to salvation which can never be forgotten. The Church has been called by God, endowed with the unmerited gift of grace, and invited into a response of faithfulness. The journey is hard, but the rewards are great.

QUESTIONS

1. How are we saved?
2. How do you bear hardship for the Gospel?

Gospel

Mt 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord

Commentary on Matthew

There are elements in this transfiguration that would remind anyone knowledgeable in the Hebrew Scriptures that we are dealing with a *theophany*, a self-revelation of God: *The mountain*: Surely we are reminded of Sinai where God made himself known to Moses. *The radiance*: A light shines wherever God is present (Exodus 25: 15; 40:34). A light shines from the face of Moses who has seen God (Exodus 34:35). *The cloud*: God hovers over the Tabernacle in the form of a cloud. *The voice from heaven*: Beginning at Jesus' baptism we hear that voice revealing his presence and his power (Matthew 3:17). *Listen to him*: In Wisdom literature there is always a call to *hear*, that is to *obey* God (Proverbs 5:7; Sirach 6:35; 21:15). Now the One to be obeyed is Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus, between Moses, the law-giver and Elijah, the great prophet situates him in the heart of Jewish tradition.

Peter wants *Three Booths* to be set up. The Jewish *Feast of Booths*, *Succoth*, celebrated the days when the people lived as nomads on their way to the Promised Land, with God abiding among them in a special Tent or Booth (Deuteronomy 16: 13-15). Our journey of faith is illuminated by the glory that comes from the Risen Christ. We are on our journey to the Promised Land, heaven and in this journey, we are not in darkness. Evil has not taken over. The passion and death of Jesus must still be fulfilled in our lives and in the life of the Church, but resurrection and glory are assured. Sin is all around us and within us but the glory

of Christ has appeared and come to be with us by the power of the Spirit.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it significant that Jesus was between Moses and Elijah?
2. How are you encouraged by the Transfiguration in your journey in the Christian life?

Watch the Video

Please watch the reflection on the weekly readings prepared by the staff at Parish of the Holy Eucharist. It can be found on the parish website at www.pothe.org or you may obtain copies of the DVD at the parish office.



Credits

Opening Prayer. *Missale Romanum*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008. *Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing Co., New York, 2011.

Readings for Mass. Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC.

Commentary and Catholic Doctrine. *Echoing God's Word*. © 2013 Rev. Clement D. Thibodeau, 12 St. Anne Ave., Caribou, ME 04736 All rights reserved.