

Suggested Opening Song: O God beyond All Praising, #212

Today we hear the account of Jesus' transfiguration, when the Lord suddenly shone like the sun in front of his closest disciples, knocking them to the ground in awe. On this second Sunday of Lent, we realize that we still have the opportunity to transform our lives, to become a different person, to shine like the sun and amaze those closest to us. May this celebration of the Eucharist strengthen us to transfigure our lives and make them more closely conform to our Lord's.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 144

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

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

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 12

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

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, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 120

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram: “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from you 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.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

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

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

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/.**

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/.**

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/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Beloved: Bear you 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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 17:1-9

Glory to you, O Lord

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- According to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, about a week before the Transfiguration, Jesus told his disciples for the first time that he would suffer and be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. Then he asserted that those who follow him must deny themselves and take up their crosses. (John did not write about the Transfiguration at all.) Therefore, it is only a few days after this challenging news that Peter, James, and John hear the Father's voice coming from a cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). My beloved Son just told you he was going to suffer, die, and be raised on the third day. Listen to him. He told you that you must deny yourselves. Listen to him. He commanded that you each take up your cross. Listen to him.
- Perhaps only in retrospect do the disciples link the two events. Jesus is able to be seen transfigured in glory because he has accepted his cross and will sacrifice himself to follow the Father's will. We are called to take up our crosses and sacrifice our desires and self-centeredness to follow God's will. In doing so, we hope to one day be transfigured in glory for all eternity.
- Today Jesus is seen transfigured, but in just over a month—on Good Friday—we will see our Lord disfigured: a crown of thorns thrust down upon his head, bloody welts on his body after being whipped by the soldiers, wounds in his hands and feet from the nails driven into them on the cross. For our sins, Jesus accepts becoming disfigured. But by putting his life in the Father's hands, he becomes transfigured in glory.

Question of the Week

How can I see myself transfigured between now and Easter? How will accepting my cross and following Jesus more closely help transform my life?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Generations ago, God promised blessings upon the children of Abraham and so we have the confidence to ask for those blessings upon us and our brothers and sisters in need.

- For the Church, that by transforming the lives of those with spiritual or material needs, we may bear witness to the transfigured Lord in our midst, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That we may all work to reduce climate change, environmental pollution, and global inequality so that our world may be radically transfigured, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who bear an inordinate share of hardship for the gospel, that they may find untapped sources of the strength that ultimately comes from God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation, that this Lenten season may draw them ever closer to Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all of us when we find ourselves overcome with fear or anxiety, that we may feel Jesus' gentle touch and the reassurance of his confidence in us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you looked with favor upon your beloved Son, with whom you were well pleased. May we please you by our words and actions as we give witness to you with our lives. Hear this and all our prayers and grant them through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 180

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

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.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us,  protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: Christ Be Our Light, #218