

# The Living Word

Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

28 February 2021

## First Reading Gn 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

*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.'

## 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

*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.

## 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.*

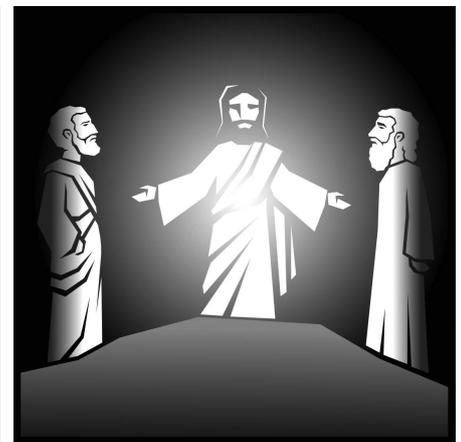
*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

## Gospel 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.



## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience. Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.

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**S**t Casimir was a Polish prince; the third son of King Casimir IV. As a young man he refused to take up arms against any Christian country and also refused to marry the daughter of Emperor Frederick III. Instead he preferred a life of celibacy and devotion to God. In 1484 he died of tuberculosis - he was only 26 years of age. Soon after his death, miracles were reported at his tomb. He is the patron saint of Poland and Lithuania.



# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- |            |          |          |
|------------|----------|----------|
| alone      | high     | shelters |
| clothes    | Moses    | Son      |
| cloud      | mountain | teacher  |
| frightened | Peter    | three    |

P G L F K J I J Z X Z P H V E T Z  
 D I K N U N M L Z H J S N B O Q V  
 R G M H X R X O M S D H O M W N O  
 E Y Q M X D C A S U X E S M H N I  
 H V Y L R D U L R E X L F N C V E  
 T K T H R E E O M U S T A D I C J  
 Y K N N I A T N U O M E I A L I E  
 C Y O E O J H E S N Y R X D P F Q  
 H L C K N F T M U V Z S E X D K A  
 G F O E Y Z D Y M E A N N Y C L C  
 I K P N F P K A M U E N J K L R L  
 H H R V H A M Y U T T D Q U E S O  
 B D E W Q R S E H T O L C H S P U  
 I B R E T E P G C W N T C P T O D  
 T L R K F F I R Y S R A O N W Z L  
 L X K H T R I M S Z E O V Q Z M Z  
 R J A E F X P I X T N R G O E V F

Draw a line from each of the following statements to either Moses or Elijah.



**Moses**

- God's law was revealed to him
- He challenged King Ahab for worshipping a false god
- A great prophet mentioned in the first book of Kings
- He rescued God's people from Egypt
- Elisha became his successor
- He became the leader of the Israelites



**Elijah**