



Second Sunday of Lent - Cycle A

Transfiguration of Jesus

Readings & Background

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading : *Genesis 12:1-4a*

God promises Abram a great blessing.

Responsorial Psalm : *Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22*

God's mercy is upon those who trust in God.

Second Reading : *2 Timothy 1:8b-10*

Through God's grace we are called to holiness.

Gospel Reading : *Matthew 17:1-9*

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

	Purpose of this session
Profession of faith – mystery of God	Jesus is divine
Scripture	Matthew 17:1-9 Link with the Old Testament – who were Moses and Elijah?
Church	God continues to act in his church today – we are part of that great tradition.
Sacraments/liturgy	

Background on the Gospel Reading

For the second Sunday of Lent, **we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration.**

Each year on the **first Sunday** of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' **temptation in the desert**. On the **second Sunday** of Lent each year, we hear the story of **Jesus' Transfiguration**.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the **three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke**. In each of those Gospels, the **Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death** and his teaching about the **costs of discipleship**. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

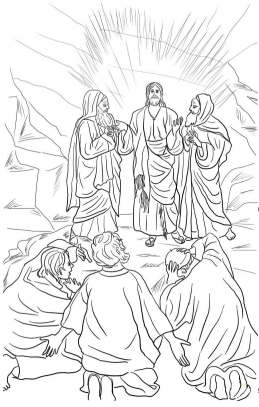
On a mountain in today's reading, a **voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son** in words reminiscent of the voice at **Jesus' baptism**.

In addition, the appearance of **Moses and Elijah** on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. **Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets**, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.



The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: **Peter, James, and John**. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among **the first whom Jesus calls**.

The three men are identified as **an "inner circle"** among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.



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Family Connection

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain
in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows.

How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones?

Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9.

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty.

Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22.

R. (22) 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.

