

Purification and Enlightenment Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Second Sunday of Lent • Year B • March 1, 2015

*Saving Lord,
give us ears to hear your Son.*

*Give us hearts open
to your love.*

*Give us eyes
to see your glory.*

Amen.



Sunday Word

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Psalms 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

Romans 8:31b-34

Mark 9:2-10

Repent

God saves us. God desires for us to be in harmony with Heaven. What earthly power, therefore, can keep us from life with God?

There is no one and nothing that can prevent us from union with God. There is no one who points a finger at us and condemns us, for God himself offers us Salvation.

The only one who can prevent our union with God is us, by sinning and turning from the way of Christ that opens before us. Satan himself cannot condemn us, for Christ has conquered Satan. We hold the key in that we choose either the life of God or the life of sin and death.

For Reflection . . .

- * How truthful have you been in confronting and acknowledging sinfulness in your life?
- * Who helps you to ignore or fight against the allure of sin?

Renew

On the mountaintop of the Transfiguration, the three disciples were given an amazing glimpse of Christ's true glory. The figure of Christ became so awesome that Peter cannot adequately express what the three disciples are thinking and feeling. They are terrified by this manifestation of divine glory, and yet they know it is good. They know they are privileged to be on the mountaintop with Christ.

The glory of the Lord surrounds us too. We receive a glimpse of heavenly glory in the liturgy and in the celebration of the Sacraments. We receive a glimpse of God's glory in the birth of a baby, in reconciliation with an estranged family member or friend, or when long-distance relations travel to celebrate together. It is as if a window opens for a moment and life attains greater clarity. We sense the Love that makes all love possible, God assuring us that we are indeed his beloved.

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For Reflection . . .

- * What are the high points of your journey of faith? Why?
- * Which companions in faith would you take with you up the mountaintop of prayer?

Church Teaching: We See the Glory of the Father in Christ

Contemplating the countenance of Christ in prayer, in liturgy, and in other people draws us beyond ourselves. We are brought closer to Divine Mystery. In Christ, the Son of God, we see the glory of our heavenly Father revealed. Indeed, the glory of the Son is the same as the glory of the Father.

The disciples are recipients of a great gift on the mountain. They are fully awake, that is, very much aware of divine glory in Jesus. Soon their innocent Master will suffer death upon the Cross, like a common criminal.

Though they do not yet know it, this mountaintop experience of the divine presence will strengthen them for what will come. It also disposes them to understand what will come even later: the shining glory of the Resurrection of Christ!

Distinctiveness of Church Teaching

Saint John Damascene says, “Previously God, who has neither a body nor a face, absolutely could not be represented by an image. But now that he has made himself visible in the flesh and has lived with [us], I can make an image of what I have seen of God . . . and contemplate the glory of the Lord, his face unveiled”.

We return each year on this Lenten Sunday to the mountaintop of the Transfiguration. We need a strong reminder of the glory of Christ to sustain us in the times when we will encounter his cross. This reminder helps us stand firm in the Lord, to cherish the covenant relationship we have with God in Christ. Our citizenship is in Heaven! Surrendering to that truth changes us, frees us, and sets our hearts and sights to our heavenly home.

Key Images and Symbols of the Season

His Exodus — the suffering, Death and Resurrection of Jesus (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 129, 130, 571, 614, and 1094)

It is Good That We Are Here — Peter’s attitude, that we make our own as we enter the liturgy (see CCC 1098)

Beloved Son — his heavenly Father reiterates what he said at Christ’s Baptism (see CCC 443, 445, 458, and 479)

Listen to Him — proper stance of the disciple to Jesus (see CCC 425, 427, and 554)

They No Longer Saw Anyone But Jesus — the Law and the Prophets, symbolized by Moses and Elijah, are fulfilled in Christ (see CCC 556, 592, 615, and 2763)

Preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

What particular aspect of the Gospel scene on the mountaintop most captures your attention and why?

Where do you see God’s glory revealed in your own life?

