

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



The Glory of God

God of our ancestors,
your glory shines through
all generations,
and brings forth life.
You offer us salvation in your Son,
our Lord Jesus;
in you we shall not fear.
Strengthen our resolve to imitate
your Son,
speak of the power of your love,
and share the good news.
Help us stand firm
and shine your light and love
to all we encounter.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Deep and Real Prayer



Today's readings: Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Psalm 27:1, 7–8, 8–9, 13–14; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 9:28b–36. In Luke's account of the Transfiguration, we hear these words: "Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray." The sole focus of the climb of the mountain was prayer.

What a stunning and revelatory moment it was for Peter, John, and James to experience Jesus praying deeply, changing in appearance, and even his clothes turning dazzling white. Seeing Jesus in his fullness, the apostles witnessed their friend's divinity. They were speechless when they heard God say, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

As we begin the second week of Lent, consider how Jesus prioritized prayer and the place it holds in your life.

Do you set aside time for prayer? Do you allow space to be silent before God? Examine your schedule to determine a time for prayer.

St. Paul tells us in the second reading that "our citizenship is in heaven." There, Christ will change our bodies to "conform with his glorified body." But he tells them first that they need to imitate the holy life that he has set before them, changing their focus from earthly things. Help yourself focus this week on heavenly things by praying the psalm from today and contemplating the refrain, "The Lord is my light and my salvation."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 14

Share Mercy

Today's Gospel calls us to "be merciful." Merciful actions beget mercy. "The measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you," Jesus tells the disciples. Act on one of the seven corporal works of mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, give alms to the poor. *Today's readings: Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11; Luke 6:36-38.*

Tuesday, March 15

Truly Humble

People often tout their accomplishments and their status. Jesus' message today is contrary to such behavior. He tells us that the greatest among us must be a servant, and that those who are humble will be exalted. Seek to be conscious of whether you are boastful. When we act as the person God created us to be, there is no need to boast, for each one of us is made in God's image and likeness. *Today's readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, and 23; Matthew 23:1-12.*

Wednesday, March 16

Service

Jeremiah was a young prophet. When first called by God, he didn't want the job. He knew it would be tough to challenge people who were not following God's ways. Christians today can be wary of taking on their call as disciples. Jesus asks us to serve without seeking favor. For many of us such service is difficult. How will you follow Jesus today by serving others? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalm 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Matthew 20:17-28.*

Thursday, March 17

Priorities

Lying at the rich man's door, Lazarus would have liked to receive any bit of food. The rich man did not heed the poor any more than he was attentive to Moses and the prophets. Many things vie for our attention. Where do you put your focus: on Christian teachings and Scripture or on more earthly things? Make a list today of your top ten priorities. Where does God fall on the list? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, and 6; Luke 16:19-31.*

Friday, March 18

Faith during Adversity

Jealousy, hatred, vengeful feelings are strong human emotions that can be at the root of poor choices. Cyril of Jerusalem, whose feast day is today, was treated unjustly by his contemporaries but remained faithful. He was the bishop of Jerusalem and later named a doctor of the church. He is known for his homilies that prepared catechumens for initiation into the Church. *Today's readings: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46.*

Saturday, March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary

As we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we hear in the Gospel that Joseph is "a righteous man" unwilling to expose Mary to shame. When an angel visited Joseph in a dream, he showed great trust and confidence in God's plan for him and Mary. Joseph is the patron of the universal Church. Pray through the intercession of St. Joseph today, mindful of his example of faith. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a.*

