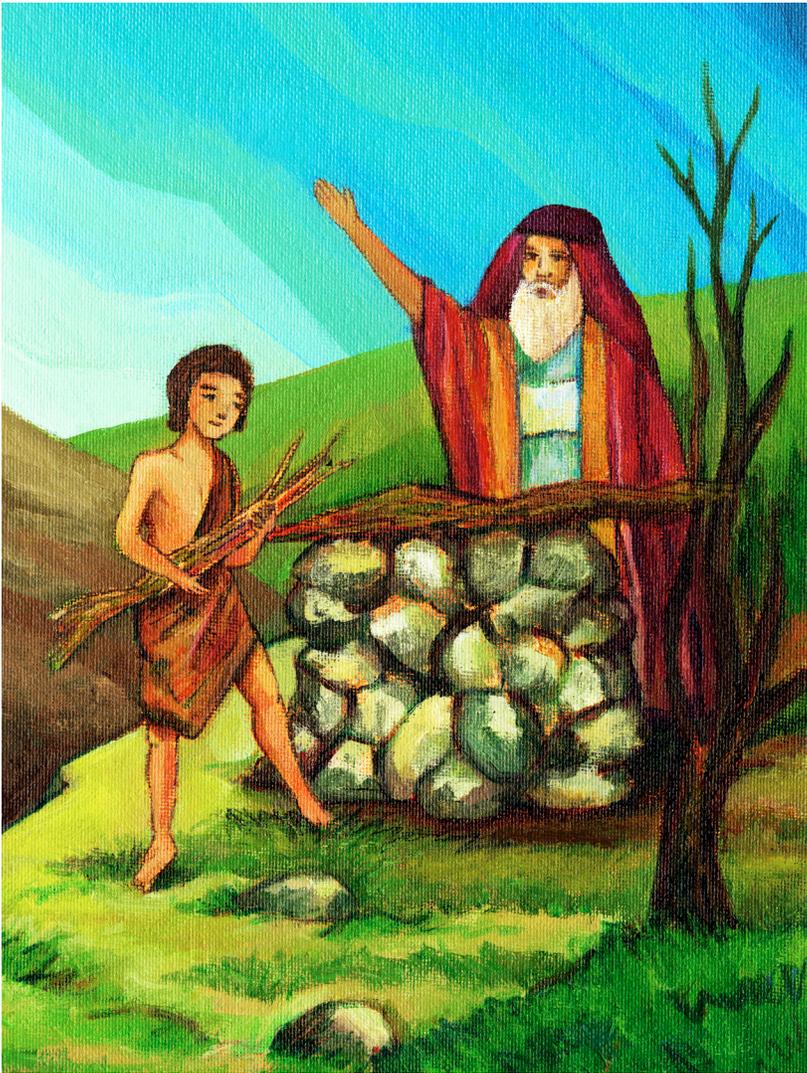


SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Transformed Hearts

God of unimaginable blessings,
who tested Abraham's faith,
help us to surrender all that is
self-seeking.

Filled with compassion,
you revealed your love for us
in the Paschal Mystery of your beloved
Son, Jesus.

Grant us, during this Lenten journey,
transformed hearts that shine with the
light of your glory;
enlighten your people
so we may be attentive to the sound of
your voice.

Keep us ever mindful of your presence
and of the countless gifts you have
bestowed upon us
so that on that final day,
we may be called your beloved children.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Listen

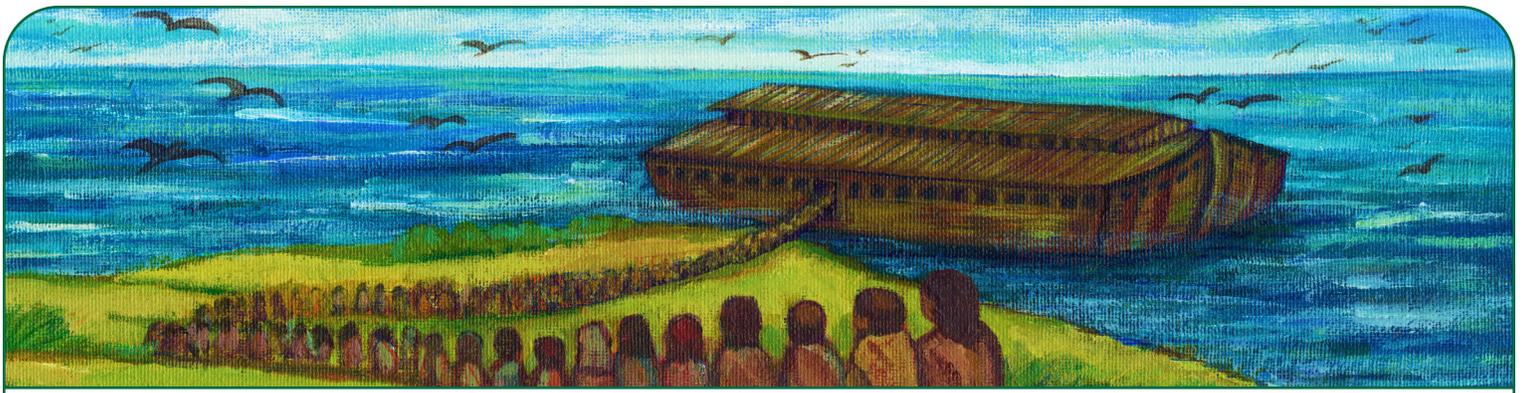


Today's Readings: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13; 15-18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10. Each time you hear the First Reading you may wonder how God could ask Abraham to sacrifice his son. The passage, though, highlights Abraham's unwavering devotion to God. As our father in faith, Abraham teaches us to listen carefully to God. He also teaches us to remain faithful to the covenant. We know from the reading that God promised to bless Abraham and his descendants for generations because of this witness of faith. Can you think of a time God asked you to sacrifice something dear to you? How did you respond?

In examining the Gospel, God's promise becomes more evident. We are the heirs to this great promise. At the

Transfiguration, God reveals his beloved Son to Peter, James, and John. They have known Jesus, but now they have seen him in his full glory. This moment prefigured all that will come about in the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. Once and for all, God revealed in Jesus the depth of his love. God's sacrifice of his Son shows how much God loves us. God has kept his promise and now we, the heirs of this great mystery, are invited to share it with all people.

In these early days of Lent, take time to sit quietly and listen to God. In a journal, write or draw what you hear and rest in the dazzling presence of God whose love knows no end.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 26

Forgiveness

“Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins,” is the refrain for today’s Psalm. This refrain is a fitting response to the First Reading in which Daniel calls out his people’s sin. He also reminds us that God is compassionate and forgiving. Sin separates us from God, but when we seek pardon with contrite hearts, God hears us and embraces us. We are then called to imitate God and forgive one another. How might you practice forgiveness? Today, meditate on the Act of Contrition. *Today’s Readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, February 27

Hear and Listen

The prophet Isaiah passionately calls upon the people to “hear” and to “listen” to God. Isaiah also calls to us in this Lenten season to open our hearts to God’s love. Listen! Hear! God is calling you away from our misdeeds and urging you to work for justice. God’s promise is that the stain upon our hearts will be washed clean and become as white as snow. Place yourself in the First Reading and the Gospel as you pray today. What do you hear? *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, February 28

Save Me

Strong emotion is evident in today’s Psalm. When distraught, we can look to the psalms for the words to give voice to our feelings. Other psalms help us sing of our love for God. No matter how we feel at the moment, the psalms can help us realize God’s love for us and surrender ourselves to him. This evening, pray today’s Psalm. *Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

Thursday, March 1

What Path

The prophet Jeremiah presents us with two paths. The first is for the one who trusts in earthly things or ideas. This person will not have life. The second is the path of the one who trusts in the Lord. The one who follows the Lord will bear abundant fruit. Consider your life. What path have you chosen? Take a slow walk today and meditate upon this reading and your journey. *Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 2

The Vineyard

Imagine yourself (and your parish) as the vineyard in today’s story. How often have you rejected or ignored God’s servants? It is difficult at times to hear the call to conversion. If you put yourself into the story, who would you be and how would you react? Ultimately, Jesus is trying to teach us that he is the one who saves and those who choose to ignore and not follow will not inherit the Kingdom. Go forth today and cultivate good conversations and share the Good News. *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 3

Loving and Forgiving

The Prodigal Son is a familiar story that invites us to contemplate our relationship with God and God’s abounding love for us. As you read this Gospel once again, identify the main movements. What does this parable teach about forgiveness? As the Psalm states, “The Lord is kind and merciful,” and each of us, united in love, is called to show compassion. Consider ways you might festively celebrate one’s return or the gift of reconciliation. *Today’s Readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*

