

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

Lk 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / C

13 MARCH 2022

OUR TRUE GOAL

As Abraham travels towards the land of promise he seeks a sign from the Lord. While he was told that his descendants will number as the stars, he and Sarah are childless and, not unreasonably, they look for assurance that God's promises will be fulfilled. In the awe-inspiring events that follow, he is encouraged to continue the journey as God confirms the promises already made by means of a covenant.

When Jesus journeys towards his own death the disciples stand in similar need of assurance and revelation. On entering the cloud they, like Abraham before them, are filled with terror. It is in this moment of uncertainty and confusion that they hear the Lord's voice calling them to see Jesus as God's chosen one and to listen to his message. Jesus' death is not the end of his journey and mission, rather, it is to be understood as the means by which he makes his saving exodus to the Father.

Located on one of the great trade routes, Philippi was a city of great strategic importance in the Roman Empire. Large numbers of veteran soldiers were settled there in order to secure it for Rome. The word that Paul uses for homeland/commonwealth is precisely the word used to describe such a colony of relocated veterans. In the midst of the changes, uncertainties, and journeys of life, Paul reminds his converts of a power greater than Rome – the power of Jesus to transform us and subdue all of creation. It is in Jesus that we find our true home and goal.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

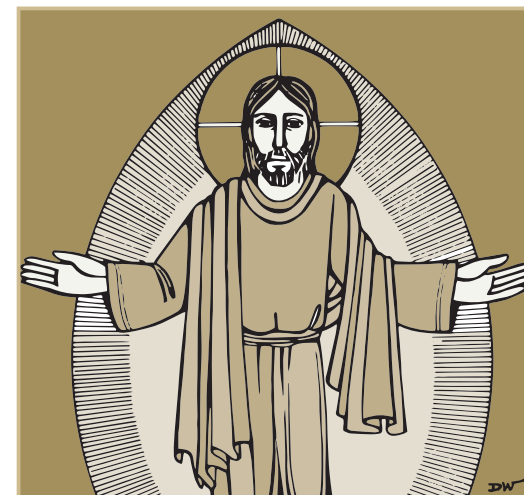
RESP PSALM

Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; / whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; / have mercy and answer. / Of you my heart has spoken: / 'Seek his face.' **R.**



3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; / hide not your face. / Dismiss not your servant in anger; / you have been my help. **R.**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness / in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 3:20-4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Longer form, Phil 3:17-4:1.