



AMDG  
2ND SUNDAY IN LENT  
YEAR B  
25TH FEBRUARY 2018



**Listen!**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your glory.

The readings for this second Sunday in Lent invite us to listen and to trust that God will lead us in ways that are life-giving.

Abraham learns that he can trust God with the life of his precious son, even though what he is asked to do seems contrary to all God's previous promises. His obedience and faithfulness are blessed by God (*First Reading*).

St. Paul reminds us that, since God gave up his only Son as his gift to us, we can be certain that he will not refuse us anything that we ask. God is on our side! We can trust him for our needs (*Second Reading*).

In the *Gospel*, we hear Jesus ask for a different kind of trust from Peter, James and John. After seeing Jesus transfigured in all his glory on the mountain top, they are asked to listen and believe in him, but to wait for the right time to speak of all they have seen and heard.

The *Psalmist* sings a song of rejoicing. Even when sorely afflicted, he has trusted in the Lord. Now he gives thanks for the ways in which the Lord has freed him, and becomes a joyful witness before all God's people.

We pray for the grace to listen and to trust more fully in Jesus this Lent so that we, too, may "walk in the presence of the Lord".

## PSALM 115 (116)

*R./ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

**I** trusted, even when I said:  
“I am sorely afflicted.”

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord’s name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

As I begin my prayer I pause, becoming aware of God’s presence, in me, in the air I breathe, in everything around me that is God’s gift to me.

Sometimes, simply staying with this gentle awareness may be my whole prayer – God is with me and I am with God. God loves me with an enormous love.

I ask for help to pray.

After a time, I read the words of the psalm slowly, line by line, allowing its words to resonate gently in my mind and heart.

I speak with the Lord about these words, as one friend might speak to another. I listen to what God might have to say to me.

I may like to ponder one or more of the following suggestions and share with the Lord. I need not feel I must pray with them all.

What does the response “*I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living*” mean for me? Perhaps I find myself hoping or longing for something.

I talk with the Lord about it.

Maybe I can remember with gratitude times in my life when I trusted the Lord, even in the midst of great turmoil? Or perhaps I need to ask for a greater trust that the Lord will “loosen my bonds” now?

I share with the Lord.

Where am I called to be a witness “before all his people” to the love and joy of God, either in words or by my actions? The Lord will always be with me – I ask for whatever help I need.

I end with praise and thanksgiving: *Glory be ...*

## GOSPEL: MARK 9: 2–10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus. “Rabbi”, he said, “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 to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, “This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.” Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what “rising from the dead” could mean.

As I come to my place of prayer, I remember that God gazes on me with great compassion, mercy and love.

I begin slowly, taking time to come to stillness in the presence of God, in whatever way is right for me. I ask the Holy Spirit to help me as I pray. I do not rush.

When I am ready, I read the words of the Gospel.

I may like to imagine being led up the mountain by Jesus, with the apostles.

What is it like for us to be alone with Jesus?

As Jesus reveals the glory that is his as the Son of God, I listen to Peter’s reaction. How do I respond to Jesus? I share with him.

I hear the voice say, “*This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!*”

What does the Lord Jesus want me to know and understand as I listen to him today? Perhaps I ask him.

As I come back to my daily life from my place of prayer, how am I called to respond to others? For what grace do I need to pray?

Towards the end of my time of prayer, I take a few moments to notice how I am thinking and feeling now. I share with the Lord.

I end my prayer slowly, giving thanks. *Our Father ...*

## Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

With God on our side who can be against us? *Second Reading*

Of my heart has spoken: Seek his face.

It is your face, O Lord that I seek; hide not your face from me.

*Entrance Antiphon*

Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give.

*Second Reading*

I trusted, even when I said: "I am sorely afflicted."

*Psalm*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further*

*Gen. 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Ps. 115 (116); Rom. 8: 31-34; Mark 9: 2-10*



**In their presence  
Jesus was  
transfigured**



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH  
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**JESUIT**  
Ministries



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