

Liturgy of the Word
Second Sunday of Lent – Year B
February 25th 2024

Entrance antiphon:

(All) **Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love. For they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.** (Psalm 24, 6).

To commemorate our baptism, and to begin our celebration, let us bless ourselves with the sign of the cross:

(All) **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(All) **And with your spirit.**

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare our hearts to hear the Word of God and to receive his body in Holy Communion:

(All)

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault,	through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask Blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.
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May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. (All) **Amen.**

Collect prayer

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

(All) **Amen.**

FIRST READING *please be seated.*

A reading from the Book of Genesis (22, 1-2, 9-13, 15-18)

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

When Abraham and Isaac came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." The Angel said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do

anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Word of the Lord: (All) **Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 116)

**R. I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

I kept my faith, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.

**R. I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

O Lord, I am your servant;
You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.

**R. I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**R. I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

FIRST READING *please be seated.*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8, 31,35,37)

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

The Word of the Lord: (All) **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*

(All) **Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ. From the bright cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my son, the Beloved, listen to him. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** (Luke 9, 35)

The Lord be with you. (All) **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (9, 2-10)
(All) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.
(All) **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY *please be seated*

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

With the entire Church, let us now proclaim our Faith:

(All)

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under

Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died
and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose
again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Deacon) Let us now present our requests to the Lord, for the Church, for the world and for ourselves; let us pray with confidence to the Lord our God:

For the family of God, faithful to Jesus' call to repent and believe the Good News, we pray to the Lord:

(All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For world leaders, called to govern with justice and compassion, we pray to the Lord:

(All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer illness, discomfort and pain, we pray to the Lord:

All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our community, ever striving to be true followers of Jesus, we pray to the Lord:

(All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

(Deacon) God, our Father, to your greatness, there is no limit. In your great goodness, look at our desire to collaborate for a more just world and grant us the grace to work tirelessly for your greater glory and the good of all. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

(All) **Amen.**

COMMUNION RITE

As we prepare ourselves to receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, and following the teaching and command given by our Saviour, we dare to say,

(All) **Our Father, who art in Heaven...**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. You who live and reign forever and ever. (All) **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

(All) **And with your spirit.**

Let us offer each other the sign of Peace.

(The Holy Ciborium is brought to the altar).

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

(All) **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

We shall now receive the Body of Christ, in Holy Communion. Let us recite together the communion antiphon:

(All) **This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.** (Matthew 17, 5)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *remain seated*

God our Father, in time spent in prayer, it is not unlike having spent time on the mountain with you, as you ask us to listen to your beloved Son, inviting us to follow him. Teach us to keep our hearts illuminated by your presence. Help us to walk faithfully, despite the worries, the darkness and sorrows of this life, and to be with you one day, forever in your light that never fades. We ask this through Christ our Lord, him who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

(All) **Amen.**

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

(All) **And with your spirit.**

May the Lord look over each of us and each of our families, may he protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life, and may the blessing of almighty God, † the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you.

(All) **Amen.**

Let us go, in peace, to love and to serve the Lord.

(All) **Thanks be to God.**