

[23]

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

C

FIRST READING

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

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

3:20-4:1

Brothers and sisters:

We are citizens of heaven
and are eagerly waiting for our Savior to come from there.
Our Lord Jesus Christ has power over everything,
and he will make these poor bodies of ours
like his own glorious body.

Dear friends, I love you and long to see you.
Please keep on being faithful to the Lord.
You are my pride and joy.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

147:1, 3-4, 5 and 7

R. (Is 30:18) Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

Shout praises to the Lord!
Our God is kind,
and it is right and good
to sing praises to him.

R. Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

He renews our hopes
and heals our bodies.
He decided how many stars
there would be in the sky
and gave each one a name.

R. Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

Our Lord is great and powerful!
he understands everything.
Celebrate and sing!
Play your harps
for the Lord our God.

R. Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

See Matthew 17:5

R. 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.

R. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

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

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

9:28-36

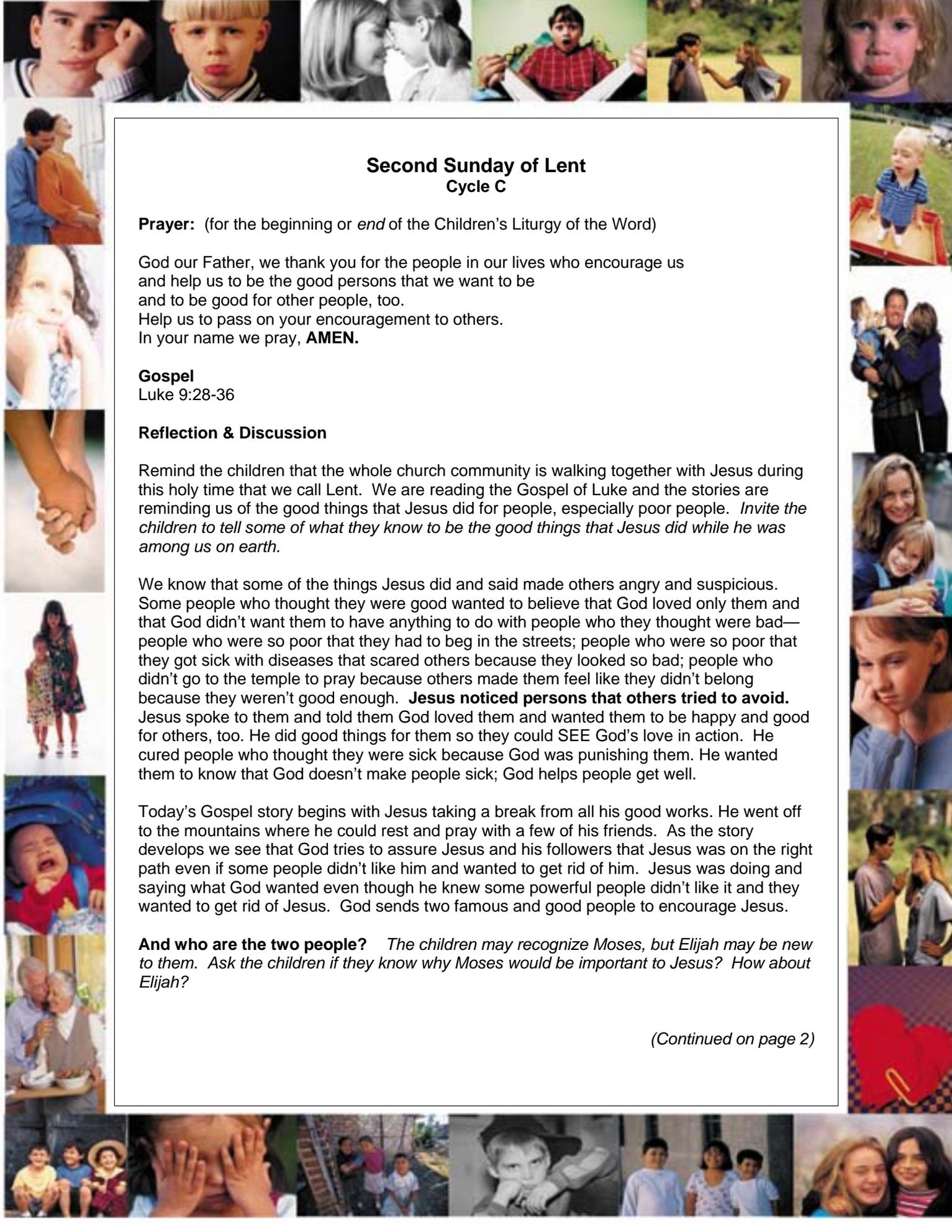
Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him
and went up on a mountain to pray.
While he was praying,
his face changed, and his clothes became shining white.
Suddenly Moses and Elijah were there speaking with him.
They appeared in heavenly glory
and talked about all that Jesus' death
in Jerusalem would mean.

Peter and the other two disciples had been sound asleep.
All at once they woke up and saw how glorious Jesus was.
They also saw the two men who were with him.

Moses and Elijah were about to leave, when Peter said to Jesus,
"Master, it is good for us to be here!
Let us make three shelters,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
But Peter did not know what he was talking about.
While Peter was still speaking,
a shadow from a cloud passed over them,
and they were frightened as the cloud covered them.
From the cloud a voice spoke, "This is my chosen Son.
Listen to what he says!"

After the voice had spoken,
Peter, John, and James saw only Jesus.
For some time they kept quiet
and did not say anything about what they had seen.

The gospel of the Lord.



Second Sunday of Lent Cycle C

Prayer: (for the beginning or *end* of the Children's Liturgy of the Word)

God our Father, we thank you for the people in our lives who encourage us and help us to be the good persons that we want to be and to be good for other people, too. Help us to pass on your encouragement to others. In your name we pray, **AMEN.**

Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

Reflection & Discussion

Remind the children that the whole church community is walking together with Jesus during this holy time that we call Lent. We are reading the Gospel of Luke and the stories are reminding us of the good things that Jesus did for people, especially poor people. *Invite the children to tell some of what they know to be the good things that Jesus did while he was among us on earth.*

We know that some of the things Jesus did and said made others angry and suspicious. Some people who thought they were good wanted to believe that God loved only them and that God didn't want them to have anything to do with people who they thought were bad—people who were so poor that they had to beg in the streets; people who were so poor that they got sick with diseases that scared others because they looked so bad; people who didn't go to the temple to pray because others made them feel like they didn't belong because they weren't good enough. **Jesus noticed persons that others tried to avoid.** Jesus spoke to them and told them God loved them and wanted them to be happy and good for others, too. He did good things for them so they could SEE God's love in action. He cured people who thought they were sick because God was punishing them. He wanted them to know that God doesn't make people sick; God helps people get well.

Today's Gospel story begins with Jesus taking a break from all his good works. He went off to the mountains where he could rest and pray with a few of his friends. As the story develops we see that God tries to assure Jesus and his followers that Jesus was on the right path even if some people didn't like him and wanted to get rid of him. Jesus was doing and saying what God wanted even though he knew some powerful people didn't like it and they wanted to get rid of Jesus. God sends two famous and good people to encourage Jesus.

And who are the two people? *The children may recognize Moses, but Elijah may be new to them. Ask the children if they know why Moses would be important to Jesus? How about Elijah?*

(Continued on page 2)

Both Moses and Elijah dedicated their lives to God and to leading God's people through their words and example. God was with them in good times and bad times. *Ask if the children remember any hard times that Moses had.* So here they are with Jesus to cheer him up when he is tired and probably worried about the people who want to get rid of him. And, as if their encouragement isn't enough, God the Father speaks up, too, with a good word for Jesus and his disciples: "This is my chosen Son. Listen to what he says!"

Invite the children to talk about people who encourage them, people who help them do good things for others. (They are the people who LIGHT UP OUR LIVES just as Jesus, Moses and Elijah were surrounded by a bright light on the mountain) Perhaps they can share an experience when they had help helping someone else OR an experience when they helped another person do something good for others.

Activity

Invite the children to draw a picture of themselves on a mountaintop along with a one or two others who encourage them and help them.

OR

If you have the chance, give them a reminder note a week earlier to bring a **photo** of themselves and photos of people who encourage them. Then they can cut out the photos of themselves and others and paste or tape them on their drawing of a mountain.

Materials: drawing paper, markers/crayons, scissors, glue/tape. (You may want to put a heading on the drawing paper that reads: YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE! or give them yellow paper to draw on.)