

FIRST READING

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

A reading from the book of Genesis

12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abraham,

“Leave your country, your family, and your relatives
and go to the land that I will show you.”

“I will bless you and make you into a great nation.
You will become famous and be a blessing to others.
I will bless the people who say good things about you,
but I will put a curse on anyone who says evil things about you.
Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.”

So Abraham left, just as the Lord had told him to do.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

33:4-5, 20 and 22

R. (22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The Lord is truthful;
he can be trusted.
He loves justice and fairness,
and he is kind to everyone
everywhere on earth.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

We depend on you, Lord,
to help and protect us.
Be kind and bless us!
We depend on you.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

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

Jesus' face shone like the sun.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter and the brothers James and John with him.
They went up on a very high mountain where they could be alone.
There in front of the disciples Jesus was completely changed.
His face was shining like the sun,
and his clothes became white as light.

All at once Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus.
So Peter said to him, "Lord, it is good for us to be here!
Let us make three shelters,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was still speaking,
the shadow of a bright cloud passed over them.
From the cloud a voice said,
"This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him.
Listen to what he says!"

When the disciples heard the voice,
they were so afraid that they fell flat on the ground.
But Jesus came over and touched them.
He said, "Get up and don't be afraid!"
When they opened their eyes, they saw only Jesus.

On their way down from the mountain,
Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen
Until after the Son of Man had been raised from death.

The gospel of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Lent – Open Your Eyes!

Reflection: The readings today call our hearts to look, listen and learn. The pathnow leads us to open our eyes to see God's goodness, to listen to what God asks of us, and to learn God's promise to be with us always. Jesus invites us to take a look around us and really open our eyes. Open our eyes to see the beauty in all of God's creation. To see the land we walk upon, the air we breathe, the refreshing waters and the revealing light. Jesus invites us to look deeply into the choices of the human heart. To see the choices made for love and hate, for life and death, for peace and war. How do we care for the earth and how do we care for one another. Take a good look. When we choose to see, to look deep within our hearts, then our eyes are "Opened" and our hearts are changed. We see God.

Many of us do not like change. We become comfortable with the familiar. "I have always done it this way!" Behaviors are the most difficult to change. We often make choices that harm ourselves and others. We learn to accept these behaviors as part of who we are. For example: "Every day I do something mean to my sister." "I always make fun of people different than me." "My parents have no clue about my friends." "I have a good excuse for everything." "Who needs God anyway?" "I'm scared." "I don't trust anyone." To change we must look deeper. How do I care for the human heart?

Invitation for Action: We are called to take a deeper walk with Jesus. Where do I see God's goodness? Where do I see the hurt, pain and tears of the human heart? What does Jesus call me to care about?

Open your heart to the care of the human heart.

1. As a family, take time to serve at a parish or diocesan food pantry or food kitchen.
2. Take time to visit a parish member who is homebound.
3. Begin a relationship with a student at your school that is friendless.
4. Begin a relationship with person who has a disability.
5. Help a neighbor who is not able to take care of their yard or home.

Activity

Put Yourself into the Gospel.

1. Choose 4 children to pretend to be Jesus, Moses, Elijah and Peter. Ask all of the other children to gather around and pretend to be James and John. Jesus, Moses and Elijah should be talking. What do the kids think they are talking about?
2. Peter should ask to put up 3 booths. How does he feel and what does he think when Jesus says, "No."?
3. How do the kids react to the teacher's booming voice saying, "This is my own dear Son and I am pleased with him. Listen to what he says!"
4. Ask the children to return to their seats and sit quietly for a minute pretending that Jesus is talking to them. Ask them to draw or write what Jesus is saying to them and then share it with the class.