

light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

5 MARCH 2023

## TRUSTING THE PROMISE

At the beginning of Lent, it is not uncommon for people to feel discouraged or dissatisfied. Another year has come and gone and there is still much to be done as we get our spiritual house in order. Today's readings converge as they give reasons not to lose heart in God or, perhaps more importantly, in ourselves because we are loved by God. Abraham and Sarah were prepared to set out on the greatest adventure of their lives in their old age. Such willingness to trust in God's promises, despite the difficulties that lie before us, is at the very heart of the life of faith.

Prior to setting out for his final journey to Jerusalem, Jesus instructed the disciples that a brutal death awaited him. They were discouraged and bewildered, fearful both for Jesus and themselves. In the midst of this Jesus takes some of them aside and goes up the mountain and is transfigured before them. Their fear is now replaced by terror, but Jesus comes and touches them, encouraging and empowering them for the road that lies ahead.

In a similar fashion, the second letter to Timothy invites him not to be disheartened by the challenges and difficulties that beset him. God's grace and power have already been poured freely into our hearts. Since this is the case there is no need to be disheartened or fearful. Jesus' death has already won the victory, all that is needed is for us to take heart and trust in the new life that has been promised to us.

## FIRST READING

Gen 12:1-4

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

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

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

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

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and  
all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves  
justice and right / and fills the earth with his  
love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, /  
on those who hope in his love, / to rescue  
their souls from death, / to keep them alive in  
famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord  
is our help and our shield. / May your love be  
upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in  
you. **R.**

## SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:8-10

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul  
to Timothy**

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of  
the Good News, relying on the power of God  
who has saved us and called us to be holy – not  
because of anything we ourselves have done  
but for his own purpose and by his own grace.  
This grace had already been granted to us, in  
Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but  
it has only been revealed by the Appearing of



our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death,  
and he has proclaimed life and immortality  
through the Good News.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## 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

Mt 17:1-9

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.**

*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his  
brother John and led them up a high mountain  
where they could be alone. There in their  
presence he was transfigured; his face shone like  
the sun and his clothes became as white as the

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