

Human or Divine? Which Is He?

Scripture Background

This information isn't meant to be read aloud, but as background. If helpful, share some of it in conversation with the group.

As we journey through Lent and then the Easter Vigil celebration, the Old Testament readings highlight significant events in Jewish history. In this week's reading from Genesis, God makes a "big ask" of Abram, requesting that he leave the only place he knows to travel to an unknown land and start over. The ask comes with a promise, and because Abram takes the risk God rewards him with descendants who multiply and eventually become the Jewish people. The three disciples who climb the mountain with Jesus in today's Gospel reading have Abram to thank for their existence as worshipers of Yahweh.

Opening Prayer

Pray the following aloud together, beginning with the Sign of the Cross:

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Good and Gracious God,
thank you for this gathering to reflect on your Word of Life.

Open our eyes and ears
so that we may see and hear the message you have for us today.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Ask someone to read this passage aloud, then pause for a minute of silence.

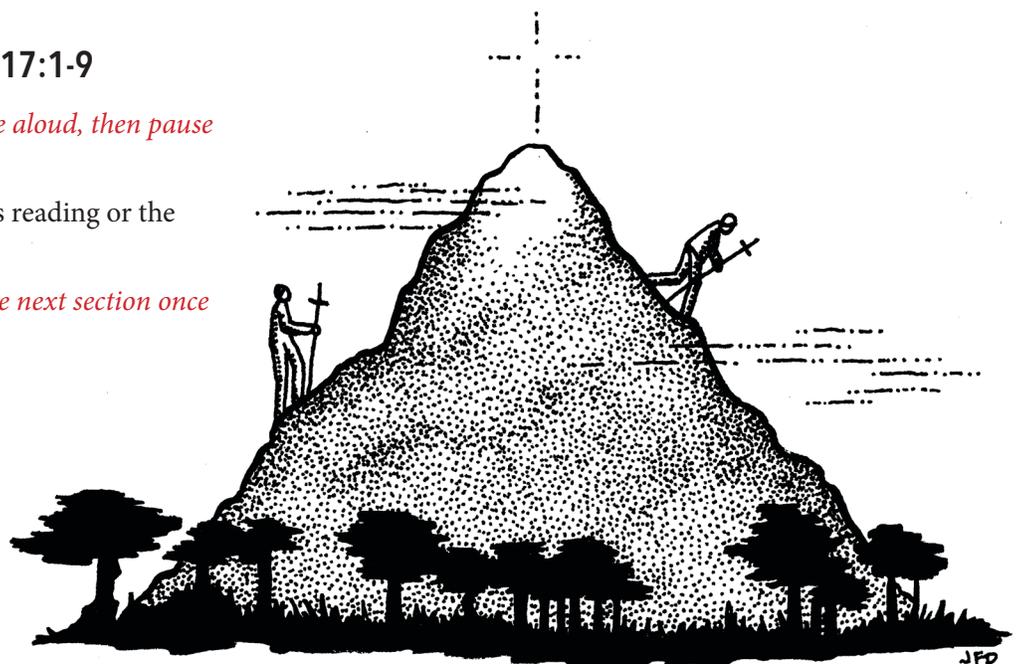
Ask: What struck you about this reading or the liturgy this week?

Allow for sharing. Move on to the next section once the sharing has died down.

March 1, 2026 • Year A

2nd Sunday of Lent

- ▶ Genesis 12:1-4 • Call of Abram
- ▶ 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 • Exhortation to faithfulness
- ▶ Matthew 17:1-9 • Jesus transfigured



Reflections on the Reading

Invite each person in the circle to read one paragraph aloud:

While last week's reading about Jesus' temptations in the desert showed us how fully human Jesus was, this week's reading of Jesus' transfiguration shows another side of him, his more-than-human side. These different sides of Jesus that show up in the Gospels can, at times, seem confusing or even contradictory. Is Jesus human or is he divine? Which is it? We can make ourselves crazy trying to figure this out intellectually. Instead, if we allow it to be a mystery that we don't have to explain, we can more readily accept the gift in the mystery.

Sometimes we need a Jesus who knows what it was like to be human like us. We need to be able to relate to him as someone who knew physical hunger, thirst, and fatigue, and someone who, at times, cried, was filled with fear, got impatient, and even became angry. The Gospels tell us Jesus felt all of these things. At other times we need a Jesus who is more than human to save us. We need a Jesus who can turn a few fish and loaves into enough food to feed thousands, who can calm a raging storm on the sea, and who can cure someone who has been sick, blind, or paralyzed for years. The Gospels tell us Jesus did all those things too.

When Peter, James, and John saw Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop, along with two of the greatest people from their history, they couldn't have understood what they were seeing. They could have spent the rest of their lives trying to "figure out" what happened up there, and what it all meant. Instead, they are told to let the intellectual debates go. Simply enough, the voice from heaven instructs them to listen to Jesus. With that, they get up, go down the mountain, and spend the rest of their lives studying him closely and trying to live out his teachings.

Questions for Discussion

Read each question aloud, one at a time, followed by time for sharing.

- ① Can you relate to Jesus more as a human or more as God? How so?
- ② Have you had an experience of being asked to trust Jesus/God even though you couldn't understand something with your mind? Please share.
- ③ In what ways is God inviting you to give up trying to understand his workings so that you can more freely follow Jesus' call to you?

Closing Prayer

Pray the following aloud together:

Jesus, may what we have heard and discussed today inspire us to leave here committed to living as more faithful disciples.

Amen.