

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
with Sunday Scripture Readings
The Second Sunday of Lent
February 28, 2021
Breaking Open the Word

STEP ONE: Listen to the Word

For Faith Sharing—The Gospel Mark 9-2-10

Theme: Seeing Jesus glorified.

Jesus took Peter, 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 fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "**This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.**" Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

QUESTION 1: What words or phrases touch your heart in this reading?
 What image lingers in your memory?

STEP TWO: Look into Your Life

QUESTION 2: (for children): Name or draw a picture of a time you knew Jesus was with you.

QUESTION 3 (for youth): The disciples had a very intense experience of Jesus on the mountain. Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience? What was it like for you?

QUESTION 4 (for adults): In what ways does Jesus speak today, ways in which you can truly "listen to him?"

Reading I: Genesis 22:1-2,9, 10-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least

thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

Reading II: Romans 8:31-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died-or, rather, was raised- who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

[* The Scripture readings are from *The New American Bible*.]

HNJ MISSION STATEMENT: Jesus calls us, the Catholic community at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, graced by the Holy Spirit, to invite all people to experience the living and loving presence of Christ by nurturing the spiritual growth of all our members through energetic celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, daily prayer, lifelong study of our faith, witness, service and hospitality.

OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S READINGS

The Gospel: God speaks directly only twice in the storyline of the New Testament Gospels: at Jesus' baptism and at his Transfiguration. Both times he identifies Jesus as "his beloved son." At the Transfiguration, he then says, "Listen to him: that is listen to the totality of the Good News of the Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims. Jesus' disciples, yesterday and today, must be attentive to all that he tells them.

The First Reading: In this story from Genesis, God puts Abraham to the test. Throughout his life Abraham was tested. The narrator does not reveal Abraham's inner struggle over the impending sacrifice of his only son through whom God's covenantal promises would be realized. He presents Abraham as unwavering in his trust and his duty to follow God's commands. For his unconditional obedience and faithfulness to God, Abraham was rewarded abundantly.

The Second Reading: Paul assures the Christians in the city of Rome of God's complete and total commitment to them. He offers the example of God's sacrifice of his own Son for our salvation as the ultimate proof of God's fidelity and love.