



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Second Sunday of Lent

Listening to Jesus

Overview

The readings for the Second Sunday of Lent in Year C present a rich tapestry of themes centred around faith, divine revelation, and the call to transformation through Christ. Each reading contributes to a deeper understanding of the Lenten journey, emphasizing the importance of listening to God and the promise of salvation.

In the first reading, God establishes a covenant with Abram, promising him numerous descendants and the land they will inherit. In the second reading, St. Paul urges the Philippians to follow his example and that of others who live according to the Gospel. The Gospel recounts the Transfiguration of Jesus, where God reveals Jesus' divine glory to Peter, James, and John on Mount Tabor. Together, these readings invite us to reflect on our relationship with God, the importance of faith, and the call to listen to Christ. Lent is a time for spiritual renewal, encouraging us to embrace the light of Christ and the hope of resurrection that lies ahead.

Leaders Reflection

- † How am I renewing myself this Lent?
- † What is Jesus saying to me?

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Background

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 highlights God's faithfulness and the call to trust God's promises. Abram's story emphasizes that faith often requires patience, and God's word is unwavering. Despite being childless and elderly, God assures Abram that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars. Abram's belief in this promise is counted as righteousness, showing even strong believers need reassurance. God provides a covenantal sign through an ancient ritual where specific animals are cut in half, symbolizing a binding agreement. This aligns with Lent, a time for deepening trust in God's redemptive plan through Christ.

Psalms 27 is a psalm of trust and confidence in God's protection, often attributed to David. It expresses deep reliance on God amid trials and threats.

Philippians 3:17—4:1 calls believers to imitate Christ, reject worldly distractions, and live as citizens of heaven. Paul's Letter to the Philippians is often called the "Letter of Joy," written while he was in prison. Paul contrasts two ways of living: Those who set their minds on earthly things and those who are citizens of heaven and await Christ's coming. This passage aligns with the Lenten call to conversion and the hope of resurrection, beautifully complementing the Gospel's theme of the Transfiguration.

Luke 9:28b-36 recounts the Transfiguration of Jesus. This event is pivotal in Jesus' ministry, revealing his divine nature and preparing his disciples for his coming passion.

The Transfiguration occurs after Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah and makes his first prediction of his suffering and death. It also occurs after Jesus instructs his disciples on the cost of discipleship, reinforcing the message that suffering and glory go hand in hand.

The Transfiguration reveals Jesus' identity and mission. It bridges the Old Testament (Moses and Elijah) with his ministry, passion, and resurrection. The Transfiguration challenges us to seek transformation, embrace the cross, and truly listen to Jesus as we journey through Lent toward Easter.

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Priest: (in these or similar words)

Dear children, today, Jesus takes his disciples up a mountain. On top of the mountain, they hear God tell them that Jesus is God's Son. Go with your leaders and listen to the Word of God.

When most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome.

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

Good morning! Today, we gather to explore some wonderful stories from the Bible that teach us about God's promises and the importance of listening to Jesus. As we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent, let's open our hearts and minds to the lessons God has for us today.

Let us pray:

(pause for a few seconds)

Loving God, thank you for bringing us together today. Help us to listen to your words, just as the disciples listened to Jesus.

Open our hearts so we can follow Jesus more closely.

Amen.

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- 5 The Lord said to Abram:
"Look toward heaven and count the stars,
if you are able to count them."
Then the Lord said to him,
"So shall your descendants be."
- 6 And Abram believed the Lord;
and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- 7 Then the Lord said to Abram,
"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans,
to give you this land to possess."
- 8 But Abram said,
"O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"
- 9 The Lord said to him,
"Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old,
a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."
- 10 Abram brought the Lord all these and cut them in two,
laying each half over against the other;
but he did not cut the birds in two.
- 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses,
Abram drove them away.
- 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram,
and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.
- 17 When the sun had gone down, and it was dark,
a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.
- 18 On that day, the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying,
"To your descendants, I give this land,
from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? **R.**

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, do I seek. **R.**

9 Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! **R.**

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 17 Brothers and sisters,
join in imitating me
and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.
- 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ;
I have often told you of them,
and now I tell you even with tears.
- 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly;
and their glory is in their shame;
their minds are set on earthly things.
- 20 But our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour,
the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation
that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,
by the power that also enables him
to make all things subject to himself.
- 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters,
Whom I love and long for,
my joy and crown,
stand firm, my beloved, in the Lord in this way.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Gospel

The children stand for the Gospel. They sign themselves on the forehead, lips, and chest.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel, according to Luke.

- 28 Jesus took Peter, John, and James
with him and went up the mountain to pray.
- 29 And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face changed,
and his clothes became dazzling white.
- 30 Suddenly, they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus.
- 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure,
which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
- 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep;
but since they had stayed awake,
they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.
- 33 Just as Moses and Elijah were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him,
"Master, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three tents,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
Peter did not know what he was saying.
- 34 While Peter was saying this,
a cloud came and overshadowed them;
and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.
- 35 Then, from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"
- 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.
And the disciples kept silent
and, in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

At the end of the Gospel, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The Gospel of the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: Glory to you, O Lord.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

- 5** God Lord said to Abram¹:
"Look toward heaven and count the stars,
if you are able to count them."
Then God said to him,
"So shall your descendants be."
- 6** And Abram believed the Lord;
and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- 7** Then the Lord said to Abram,
"I am the Lord who brought you from the desert²,
to give you this land to possess."

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Responsorial Psalm.

- R.** The Lord is my light and my salvation.
- 1** The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? **R.**
- 13** I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
- 14** Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! **R.**

¹ Abram, later named Abraham, is recognized as the patriarch of the Israelites, Ishmaelites, Edomites, and Midianites. He is a model of faith and obedience to God. The biblical history of Abram, later named Abraham, and Sarai, later named Sarah, is foundational to the narrative of the Old Testament and the understanding of God's covenant with humanity.

² Replaced "Ur of the Chaldeans."

Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

- 17 Brothers and sisters,
Our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour,
the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 21 He will transform the body
that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,
to make all things subject to himself.
- 1 My friends,
whom I love and long for,
my joy and crown,
stand firm in the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God.

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Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel, according to Luke.

- 28 Jesus took with him Peter, John and James
and went up on the mountain to pray.
- 29 And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face changed,
and his clothes became dazzling white.
- 30 Suddenly, they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus.
- 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure,
which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

At the end of the Gospel, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The Gospel of the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

Leader:

What did we hear?

What happened to Jesus on the mountain?

Who appeared with Jesus? (Moses and Elijah)

What did God say to the disciples? ("This is My Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to Him!")

Why do you think God told the disciples to listen to Jesus?

God told the disciples that Jesus is the Son of God. God wants us to listen to Jesus because Jesus teaches us how to love, be kind, and follow God.

Just like the disciples who were amazed by Jesus, we should also take time to listen to Jesus. We can do this by reading Bible stories, praying, and doing what Jesus taught us—like kindness and helping others.

Main Messages:

- God always keeps God's promises (like God did with Abraham).
- Jesus is God's Son, and we should listen to him.

Alternate Reflection

Let's start with a story about a man named Abram. God made a very special promise to Abram. God took him outside one night and said, "Look up at the stars! Can you count them? That's how many descendants you will have!" Imagine looking up at a sky full of stars! God told Abram that he would have a huge family, even though he and his wife Sarai were very old and had no children yet. Abram believed God, and that made him very special in God's eyes. This shows us how important it is to trust God and believe in His promises, even when things seem impossible.

Now, let's talk about something amazing that happened to Jesus. One day, He took three friends, Peter, James, and John, up a mountain to pray. While they were there, something incredible happened! Jesus' face began to shine brightly, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly, two important figures appeared with him—Moses and Elijah! They were talking with Jesus about what was going to happen in Jerusalem. Then, a cloud came and covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him!" This moment is called the Transfiguration, showing everyone that Jesus is God's Son. It shows us that Jesus is glorious and reminds us to listen to Him because He has important things to teach us.

So, what does it mean to listen to Jesus? Listening to Jesus is not just about hearing his words; it's about paying attention to what he wants us to do in our lives. We can listen to Jesus in many ways: through prayer, by reading the Bible, and by being kind and loving to others. When we listen to Jesus, we learn how to be better friends, brothers, sisters, and children of God.

Just like God made promises to Abram, God makes promises to us, too! God promises to love us, be with us, and help us in our lives. Sometimes, we might feel scared or alone, but we can remember that God is always there for us. We can trust in His love and guidance, just like Abram did.

As we finish our time together today, let's remember the important lessons we learned: to trust in God's promises, to listen to Jesus, and to share His love with others.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: we pray. All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

Leader: As we journey through Lent, we bring our prayers to God, who loves and listens to us. Our response is: **R:** Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Church: That all who follow Jesus will listen to his words and grow in faith and love. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
2. For world leaders: That they work together to bring peace, justice, and care for all people, especially the poor and those in need. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
3. For our families and friends: That we may be kind, loving, and forgiving, helping one another to follow Jesus every day. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
4. For those who are sick or suffering: That they may feel God's comfort and healing love through the care of others. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
5. For ourselves: That we may always listen to Jesus, just as the disciples did on the mountain, and trust in God's plan for us. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
6. For our own special prayers, which we hold in our hearts... (Pause for a moment.) We pray to the Lord. **R:**

Leader: Loving God, you sent Jesus to show us your love. Hear our prayers and help us always follow Him. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let's finish by making the Sign of the Cross together.

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

Return to the church.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and think about what they have heard and are now doing. Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Readings: Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities, CCCB, Ottawa, ON.
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