



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

Second Sunday of Lent

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The readings for the second Sunday of Lent highlight God's call to trust and follow Him on a journey of faith, revealed fully in Jesus' Transfiguration. They connect to Lent by inviting us to listen to Jesus, let go of what holds us back, and rely on God's power amid challenges.

The readings unfold God's providential call to faith amid uncertainty: Abram's obedient departure marks the beginning of salvation history; Psalm 33 extols God's upright word and watchful love as the ground for trust; Timothy exhorts bold witness through divine grace revealed in Christ, who conquers death. Together, they invite a Lenten pilgrimage, relying on God's faithfulness rather than human strength.

In the Gospel, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain. Jesus shows His heavenly glory to strengthen friends for tough times—listen to Him always.

All of the readings God calls (Abram), protects (Psalm), empowers (Paul), and reveals glory (Jesus)—perfect for Lent's climb toward Easter.

Background

Genesis 12:1-4 marks the beginning of God's covenant relationship with Abram (later Abraham) and the turning point of salvation history. God chooses one man and calls him to leave his country, his family, and his security, and go to a land that God will show him. This command requires radical trust: Abram receives a promise before he sees any evidence. God promises to make him a great nation, to bless him, to make his name great, and—most importantly—that through him all the families of the earth will be blessed. The repeated emphasis on "blessing" signals a reversal of the curse introduced by sin.

Psalms 33 is a hymn of trust in the Lord's faithful love and saving power. These selected verses highlight two central themes: God's righteousness and our hopeful trust in Him. The Psalm teaches that because God is faithful and just, we can confidently entrust our lives to God's loving care.

2 Timothy 1:8-10 St. Paul urges Timothy not to be ashamed of bearing witness to the Lord, but to share in suffering for the Gospel by relying on God's power. Paul reminds him that salvation is not earned by human works but comes from God's eternal plan of grace, given to us in Jesus Christ before time began and now revealed through His appearing. The passage encourages believers to remain courageous in faith, trusting that the Gospel is rooted in God's eternal purpose and victorious power.

Matthew 17:1-9 Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain where He is transfigured before them—His face shining like the sun and His clothes dazzling white—revealing His divine glory. Moses and Elijah appear beside Him, representing the Law and the Prophets and showing that Jesus fulfills the entire Old Testament. A bright cloud overshadows them, and the Father's voice declares, "This is my beloved Son... listen to Him," confirming Jesus' divine identity and authority. The disciples fall in fear, but Jesus reassures them, and as they descend the mountain, He tells them to keep silent until after His Resurrection, teaching that the glory they witnessed can only be fully understood in light of the Cross and the empty tomb.

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)

My dear children, today we hear how Jesus went up the mountain and showed His glory to His friends. As you go now with your own leaders, may you listen carefully to God's word and open your hearts to Jesus.

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, 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 offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

Today is the Second Sunday of Lent. Last week, we heard how Jesus was tempted in the desert. Today, we hear about a very special moment when Jesus shows His friends who He really is.

During Lent, we are walking with Jesus. Today, we climb a mountain with Him!

Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross!

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

Amen.

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

READINGS

FIRST READING

Genesis 12.1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33.4-5, 18-19, 20+22

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

The word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. **R.**

Truly, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
to deliver their soul from death,
and to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1.8b-10

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Brothers and sisters:

Join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace.

This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus took with him Peter and James, and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

FIRST READING

Genesis 12.1-4

The Lord told Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great so that you can be a blessing. I will bless those who help you. Through you, all the families of the earth will be blessed."

So Abram went, just as the Lord had commanded him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33.4-5, 18-19, 20+22, (R.22)

R: Lord, let your love be upon us.

God always tells the truth.

Everything He does is good and right.

He loves what is fair and just,
and the whole world is filled with His love. **R:**

We wait for the Lord.

He is our helper and our shield.

We trust in Him with all our hearts. **R:**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1.8b-10

Children, trust in God's strength. God saved us and chose us for a special purpose that isn't based on our actions, but on His own plan and kindness.

This kindness was given to us through Jesus Christ before time began. He defeated death and gave us life that lasts forever.

GOSPEL

Matthew 17.1-9

Jesus took his three closest friends, Peter, James, and John, up a high mountain, away from everyone else. While they were there, something amazing happened: Jesus changed. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became very white.

Then, two important figures from the past, Moses and Elijah, appeared and talked with Jesus. Peter, amazed by this sight, said to Jesus, "It's wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I can make three shelters for you—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them. A voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with him; listen to him!" The disciples were so scared that they fell to the ground. But Jesus came over, touched them gently, and said, "Get up and don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw only Jesus with them.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus told them, "Don't tell anyone about what you've seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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:

Alternate Reflection

What did you hear? Allow children to respond.

Today in the Gospel, Jesus takes three of His friends — Peter, James, and John — up a high mountain.

Have you ever climbed a hill or a mountain? Allow children to respond.

Mountains are special places in the Bible. They are places where people feel close to God. While they were there, something amazing happened. Jesus began to shine! His face was bright like the sun, and His clothes became dazzling white.

Why do you think Jesus became so bright? Allow children to respond.

Jesus wasn't changing into someone else. He was showing His friends who He truly is — the Son of God. Then they heard a voice from heaven say: "This is my beloved Son... listen to Him."

What did He tell them to do? Listen to Him.

That is the most important message for us today.

What Does This Mean for Us? Allow children to respond.

During Lent, we are learning how to:

- Listen better to Jesus in prayer.
- Listen to Him when we read the Bible.
- Listen when He tells us to forgive and love others.

Sometimes the disciples were afraid. They fell to the ground! But Jesus touched them and said, "Do not be afraid."

When do you feel afraid? Allow children to respond.

Even when life feels dark or hard, Jesus is full of light. He tells us not to be afraid.

Simple Take-Home Message

- The mountain reminds us to pray.
- The light reminds us that Jesus is God.
- The voice reminds us to listen.

This week, try to:

- Spend one quiet minute each day listening to Jesus.
- Do one kind thing because Jesus asks us to love.

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.

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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, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

Let us bring our prayers to God. After each intercession, we all say, 'Lord, hear our prayer.'

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Assistant:

For the Church, that we may listen to Jesus and follow Him faithfully. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For our families, that we may trust God as Abram did. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For people who are afraid or worried, that they may hear Jesus say, "Do not be afraid." We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For us, that during Lent we grow closer to Jesus. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

In the quiet of our hearts, we offer our own prayers... [pause]. We pray: Come, Lord Jesus. R:

The Leader says:

Loving God, thank You for showing us Your Son. Help us to listen to Him every day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



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