

# focus on sunday

The gospel presents the glory of Christ, the One in whom we can always hope, the One who takes our sadnesses and despair into his own heart, and gives us through his death and resurrection the promise of eternal hope.



Today's Gospel describes an overwhelming experience for three of the disciples, Peter, James and John - Jesus' 'inner circle'. Mountains are important locations in Matthew's Gospel, always associated with divine revelation, places where heaven touches earth. The trio realise there is something deeper going on as Jesus is transformed before their eyes. The presence of Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the prophets) invites parallels between these figures and Jesus, who fulfils both the law and the prophets.

"It is good for us to be here." These words of Peter recognise the enormity of the moment. Life is full of opportunities to acknowledge and appreciate the presence of God and others. How often do we take a moment with God to simply say "Here I am"? Lent gives us that opportunity to press pause and come into the presence of God.

Every moment holds the gift of God's presence. Sometimes this is referred to as the 'sacrament of the present moment', a realisation that God is not 'out there' but here and now, in this time and place. We encounter God in both the extraordinary and ordinary moments of life. In times of laughter and joy, when we delight in our loved ones, God is to be found. In times of rest and reflection, God is within. So while we might not identify with the disciples' experience of the Transfiguration Jesus, if we are attentive to the present moment, we may just find that our world is ablaze with divine love.

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under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, .....  
 May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**  
 May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**  
*The mystery of faith.*  
 We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**  
 Behold the Lamb of God, .....  
 Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**  
**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**

**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**  
 Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord, with a blessing that endures for ever, and keep them faithful to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son, so that they may always desire and at last attain that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body, to the amazement of his Apostles. Through Christ our Lord.

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. [R]

## SECOND READING 2 Timothy 1:8-10

**A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy**  
 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. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
 Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
 From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'  
 Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

## GOSPEL Matthew 17: 1-9

**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 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 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. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**NICENE CREED**  
 I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**  
 Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**  
**I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**



May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.  
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**OPENING PRAYER**  
 O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, .....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING Genesis 12: 1 - 4

**A reading from the book of Genesis**  
 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.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 32: 4-5.18 - 20.22

**R. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

- 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]
- 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]
- Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield.