

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Our Saving Light

Bountiful God,
you are our light and our salvation.
Our hearts speak of you,
yearning to see your face!
We ache as we seek your presence.
Hear the sound of our call.
Though we have strayed from you,
guide us back to your bounty;
help us to stand firm in your way.
Grant us the wisdom and courage
to wait for you, who saves.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Listen to Him



Today's readings: Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Psalm 27:1, 7–8, 8–9, 13–14; Philippians 3:17–4:1 or 3:20–4:1; Luke 9:28b–36. Some knowledge of ancient treaties is helpful to understand today's Scripture passages. In the reading from Genesis, we hear the Lord make two promises to Abram: an heir and land. To the promise of land, Abram requests a sign from God: "How am I to know that I will possess it [the land]?" God asks Abram to bring him a "three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram does so and proceeds to cut up the animals, which, at the time, was a way of making a treaty. After darkness falls, a smoking fire pot and

a flaming torch, representing God, pass between the cut-up animal pieces: a sign that God and Abram have entered into a covenant.

As we begin the second week of Lent, reflect on your relationship with God. How can you imitate Abraham and put your faith in the Lord? How can you deepen your relationship with God or enter into an understanding of growing faith? Though your answers to these questions likely won't involve three-year-old heifers, goats, rams, turtledoves, or pigeons, try to commit to a tangible and realistic offering you can bring to God. Bring your reflection to your prayers as you spend time in silence, listening to the Lord.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 17 St. Patrick

As a teen, St. Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates and treated as a slave. At the time, Ireland was not a Christian land. Turning to God in his captivity, Patrick wrote about his love for God. Around the age of twenty, Patrick escaped and was eventually ordained a priest. He preached and converted many to Christianity in Ireland. St. Patrick is known to have used shamrocks to explain the Trinity. To celebrate St. Patrick, reach out to someone and share three things you love about your faith. *Today's readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, March 18 Preach and Practice

Jesus warns those gathered not to be hypocritical. It is indeed important to practice what we preach and to do so in a non-performative way. We are called to serve others and praise God humbly. Pray about your motivations. Why do you serve others? Do you do so for praise or seats of honor? Ask God for the strength to preach and practice modesty, with your heart set on Christ. *Today's readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, March 19 St. Joseph

Scripture portrays St. Joseph's kindness in his unwillingness to expose Mary to shame upon learning of her pregnancy. Instead of denouncing her, Joseph intends to divorce her quietly. Scripture does not reveal Joseph's response to the angel, but we know of his yes to God's call to be Jesus' earthly father. Consider a difficult situation in which you have found yourself. Despite the hurt you may have experienced, what could you have learned from St. Joseph's example? *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.*

Thursday, March 20 Walk in the Way of the Lord

Jesus tells the Pharisees about a rich man's neglect of Lazarus, a poor, sick man at the rich man's door. After the men die, their fates are a reversal of their earthly reality: the rich man finds himself in "the netherworld, where he was in torment" while Lazarus "was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham." This serves as a jarring reminder that what we do to our neighbors, we do to Christ. Whom have you neglected to serve? How can you reconcile that this week and walk in the way of the Lord? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 21 The Cornerstone

Jesus quotes Psalm 118: "The stone that the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone; / by the Lord has this been done; / it is wonderful in our eyes." The early Church used this psalm as a prophecy of Jesus' resurrection. After reading today's Gospel, turn to Psalm 118. Familiarize yourself with the psalm by reading it once. Read it again, identifying a word or phrase that stands out. Read the psalm a final time, allowing the word or phrase to settle in your heart. *Today's readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, March 22 Love for Repentant Sinners

Enter today's Gospel through the practice of Ignatian contemplation. Begin by placing yourself in the presence of God. Ask the Lord for guidance. Read Luke 15:1–3, 11–32. Visualize what you read, paying attention to the details. Place yourself in the scene, and interact with the Gospel. Where do you find yourself? Reflect on what stood out to you from your prayer. Respond to God with a word of gratitude. Close with the sign of the cross. *Today's readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*