

The Living Word

Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

28 February 2021

First Reading Gn 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

**(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:31-34

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ!**

**From the shining cloud, the Father's
voice is heard:**

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ!**

Gospel Mk 9:2-10

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St Thomas Aquinas famously said: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' And yet many Christians do think that our ultimate goal is, by the grace of God, to end up as souls in Heaven.

No, I am a human being, bodysoul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthling, needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, especially as recounted in the other gospels, shows what happens when human nature is in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. The amazing truth is that God ardently desires that each one of us should share in the transfigured life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this to occur, we must play our part, accepting that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Beloved Son of God, listen to him, and put into practice what we hear.

We could take a moment to pray that after the "repose of the soul" after death, we may participate as bodysouls in the transfigured humanity of the Risen Lord.

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the *Jerusalem Bible*, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc. and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.



St Casimir was a Polish prince; the third son of King Casimir IV. As a young man he refused to take up arms against any Christian country and also refused to marry the daughter of Emperor Frederick III. Instead he preferred a life of celibacy and devotion to God. In 1484 he died of tuberculosis - he was only 26 years of age. Soon after his death, miracles were reported at his tomb. He is the patron saint of Poland and Lithuania.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

alone	high	shelters
clothes	Moses	Son
cloud	mountain	teacher
frightened	Peter	three

```

P G L F K J I J Z X Z P H V E T Z
D I K N U N M L Z H J S N B O Q V
R G M H X R X O M S D H O M W N O
E Y Q M X D C A S U X E S M H N I
H V Y L R D U L R E X L F N C V E
T K T H R E E O M U S T A D I C J
Y K N N I A T N U O M E I A L I E
C Y O E O J H E S N Y R X D P F Q
H L C K N F T M U V Z S E X D K A
G F O E Y Z D Y M E A N N Y C L C
I K P N F P K A M U E N J K L R L
H H R V H A M Y U T T D Q U E S O
B D E W Q R S E H T O L C H S P U
I B R E T E P G C W N T C P T O D
T L R K F F I R Y S R A O N W Z L
L X K H T R I M S Z E O V Q Z M Z
R J A E F X P I X T N R G O E V F
  
```

Draw a line from each of the following statements to either Moses or Elijah.



Moses

God's law was revealed to him
He challenged King Ahab for worshipping a false god
A great prophet mentioned in the first book of Kings
He rescued God's people from Egypt
Elisha became his successor
He became the leader of the Israelites



Elijah