



USCCaruso  
Catholic Center

## Second Sunday of Lent

### Family Prayer Service

**Presider:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

**All:** 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,

*(striking your breast, say:)*

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

*(Then continue with:)*

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.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Presider:**

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, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**

**A Reading from the Book of Genesis:**

*Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18*

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am!” he replied. Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.”

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD’s messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am!” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.” As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing— all this because you obeyed my command.”

The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)*

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**

I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**

My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**

## A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

*Romans 8:31b-34*

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

The Word of the Lord

## Verse before the Gospel

*see Matthew 17:5*

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

## A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark:

*Mark 9:2-10*

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:**  
**by Fr. Richard Sunwoo**

On this Second Sunday of Lent, we have a powerful reading in Deuteronomy. Here, Moses describes what the Lord wants us to do, and serves for us as a great path to re-orient ourselves to God.

Moses says: “Be careful, then, to observe them [statutes and decrees] with all your heart and with all your soul...” This should cause us pause, at least for a few moments, and an opportunity to ask ourselves: “Is my heart ready to actively and intentionally live Church teaching as I should?” Maybe for some of us, we have accepted this as our default, but I argue that the vast majority of us rarely remind ourselves of this first call of God to His people. This is where our Gospel comes into play. The entire teaching of Jesus actually begins at Matthew 5:21. I invite you to prayerfully read it and use it as a short examination of conscience. The things Jesus speaks of is just a starting point. When we don’t know where to begin, we begin here.

Hopefully by now, you have made the decision to intentionally draw closer to God everyday of Lent (hopefully longer) through the usual prescriptions of the Church: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. How has that been going since Ash Wednesday? You see, as our reading indicates, we are making an agreement with the Lord. We must take this agreement seriously and use every effort each day to keep our end of the deal. Keep in mind that, whatever you have chosen today, offer up a short prayer of intention beforehand. If you are fasting, make a short prayer stating that you are fasting for this meal or day to draw closer to God or for the benefit of someone else. In that way, you are also exercising your baptismal priesthood and more authentically living a super-natural life.

As far as God’s promise? Well, we need not worry. God is ever faithful. He is The Father who keeps His promises. If we say that we will meet him in prayer at a particular time and place, don’t you think that He will show up? Of course! One of the sobering realities during this pandemic is that we no longer have the excuse of “LA Traffic” when we are late. When we are late, its usually because we were not mindful of the time nor prepared for our next virtual meeting. This week, prepare for your encounter with Jesus. See your preparations as little acts of love as you prepare to meet the one you love. This communicates to the Lord our affection for Him.

The last thing Jesus tells us in our Gospel is to be “perfect like our heavenly Father is perfect.” I think there is something lost in translation. The Greek word that Jesus used for “perfect” is telios which means “having reached the goal.” The Latin equivocal word is ordinis where we get the word “ordination” or “orientation.” This should give us a fuller understanding of Jesus’ encouragement for us to be “perfect.” Jesus wants us, in all the things we do, to be oriented towards The Father—towards truth, goodness, virtue, and excellence. Often we can lose the meaning of Lent and erroneously use this sacred time and forget that this is where we draw closer to God and that our goal is heaven—not as an illustration, but in reality!

Nunc coepi! Adelante!

**Nicene Creed:**

**ALL:**

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,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified 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

**Presider:** Let us join our hearts and voices in prayer that God may transform us in love and peace:

**Intercessions:**

For our Church and our parish community, that, in our prayer and work together,  
“the earth shall find blessing” in us.:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For all nations and peoples, that they may work together to re-create our world in  
the justice and peace of God:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For parents and guardians, that their children may discover in their love and care  
for them the loving providence of God:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For those preparing for baptism and reception into the Church, that their hearts  
may be opened to the word of God’s own Son:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For those experiencing loss or crisis in their lives, that, with our compassionate  
support and kindness, they may transform their heartache into joy, their despair  
into hope:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

For all the faithful who have died that they may walk forever in the presence of  
God:

*(Pause for silent prayer).*

**All:** Lord, hear us.

**Presider:**

Father hear the prayers we make before you. May your spirit of compassion and peace transfigure  
us and our world into the image of Jesus, the Risen Christ, in whose name we offer these prayers.

**Our Father:**

**Presider:** At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

**Sign of Peace:**

**Presider:** Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

**Presider:**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:**

And with your spirit.

**Presider:**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time, please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

**Spiritual Communion:**

**All:** I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Presider:**

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord, may we possess in purity of heart, that what has been given to us in time may be our healing for eternity.

**All:** Amen