

REFLECTION: I remember a time I chose to live my life differently.. I remember... I remember...

Transformation

2nd Sunday of Lent
Cycle C | March 16, 2025

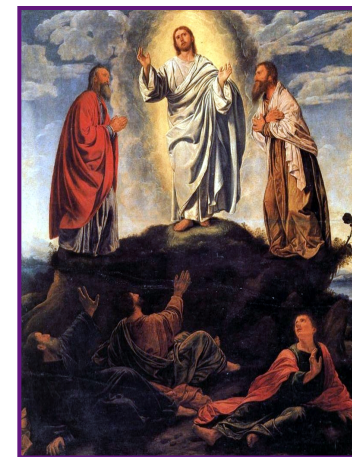


Image by Giovanni Gerolamo

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

In my few years on this earth, I've spent a lot of time and energy focusing and living in negativity. In the last few years, I have come to realize this was having a major impact on my life. Since I was a kid, I was letting negative things have a strong impact on my life, which caused me to always see things in a bad way and ultimately giving negative back to society. It caused me to have a bad perspective on life.

Then, as the years went by, my priorities got all messed up; I had everything in my life backwards. The next thing I knew I went from a kid running the streets not knowing what was right or wrong to a 24-year-old man serving a life sentence in a California prison. For the first time in my life, I opened a Bible. I was really lost and thank God I finally had my eyes opened and started to see things differently.

With the help of God, my eyes opened to the fact that the reason my life was so bad was because I was choosing to focus on just the bad in life. I came across the same inspirational stories of people in some of the worst situations you could think of who were able to find good and stay focused on God and have hope of a better life. I spent a lot of time in thought and prayer and I have chosen to live my life by faith in God and focusing on the good. Since then, I've been more at peace. Now I have my priorities in order: God, family and being a more loving and better person overall. Life is too short to not enjoy the blessings that are in front of us every day.

- Ramon, who is in a California State Prison.

PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord God,
There are times we have been shortsighted of the many opportunities you have offered us. Open our eyes to see the opportunity you offer us to grow closer to you. Help us not be afraid in times of fear, suffering and darkness.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus,
In your moment of glory, you chose to return to Jerusalem knowing the suffering you would soon face, to die to self. Help us keep you as the center of our lives and not be discouraged by the suffering we face along the way of our journey. Guide us with your light to see things differently.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

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OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

**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.**

R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**"

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

The Lord God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. He then said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." "O Lord GOD," he asked, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him. When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.

Hide not your face from me;

do not in anger repel your servant.

You are my helper: cast me not off.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:20-4:1

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: SEEING MYSELF DIFFERENTLY

(from the eyes of Peter)

awakening

i was walking
over to jesus
a radiance was
flowing from him
mystery so deep
clouds were forming
and a voice saying:
*this is my son
the one that i love
listen to him*

i know his abba
was here
words addressed
to jesus
yet addressed
to us three

the voice still resonating:
*you are my son
the one that i love*

everything in me
rebelled against
accepting this love
ever since
i have been
with jesus
this has been
his message to us

how are you going
to lead others
in believing
they are loved
by my abba
if you can't?

here was the test
the very words

from jesus's abba
telling me
i am loved
but what was
there within me
that holds on
to the old image
of myself
before i met jesus?

couldn't i receive
the forgiveness
of this one
who loves me
so much?
standing there
transfixed in time
in space

jesus
full of light was
looking at me
saying:
*peter
let these words
go deeper
within you
listen to the words
also addressed
to you:
you are my son
the one i love*

now only a silence

peter wanted
to run from this
mountaintop
for so much
of his life
he had felt unloved
could not even say
that he was
a good person

out loud
here
peter was being
told that
he was loved
as a son
by one greater

what does
this all mean?

memories
of being with jesus
on other occasions
healing the sick
those whom
all their lives
lived in darkness
that vision was
for me to see
the goodness
in them

they had suffered
so much in
their lives
the compassion
that flowed
from jesus
into me
was easy to heal
but this love
diverted to me?

i looked at
jesus again
he was even
more radiant

i began feeling
a nearness
of jesus' presence

abba

i find myself
on top of
this mountain
i hear these words
you address to jesus
and to me

i have done
so many dark things
that i am not proud of
but abba of jesus
i am ready to surrender

yes
i am your son
loved unconditionally
by you

this love
has let me
see myself
so differently

i no longer
need to carry
the heaviness
of my past

i am your son
loved unconditionally
by you

abba of jesus
thank you

i am your son
loved infinitely
by you
thank you

