

# Transformation

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

## 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.

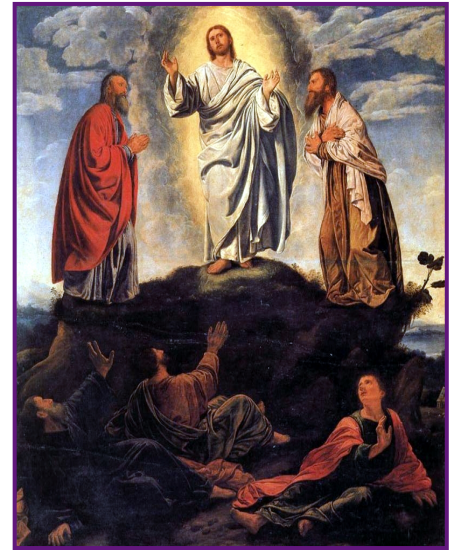


Image by Giovanni Gerolamo

## 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.**



# 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



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

### **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.**

### **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.**

