



ST PAULS MEDIA **pastoral ministry**
AMBUHAY
MISSALETTE

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION
SYNOD 2021-2023



Year 36 No. 47

Second Sunday of Lent (A) — Violet

March 5, 2023

TRANSFORMED BY *God's Grace*



by Fr. Eli Rowdy Y. Lumbo, SJ

On this Second Sunday of Lent, we read in Genesis (First Reading) of the Lord's invitation for Abraham to leave his land and family for a place and people he does not know. In the Second Reading, the apostle Paul exhorts his disciple Timothy to bear with difficulties. And in the Gospel, Matthew describes Jesus taking Peter, James, and John and leading them up a high mountain. In the invitation to Abraham, there is the call to respond with obedience and faith; in the exhortation to Timothy, to be strong and persevere in the face of trials for the gospel; and in the invitation to the three apostles, to be with the Lord and remain faithful to him.

When Abraham follows God, he is blessed. When Timothy bears the trials for the gospel, he is graced. When the apostles accompany Jesus up the mountain, they become witnesses to his transfiguration and are themselves changed. If we come think about it, our experiences in life are

constant invitations from God to conversion. And, I believe, this is especially more meaningful during the Lenten season, in the context of what we have been going through during the Covid-19 pandemic, the wars raging in the world, and the truth of our sinfulness. We come face to face with the reality that there is a need for conversion.

I was immersed in prison ministry for more than 11 years. I heard stories and saw how lives were shattered by crime and sin. But I also witnessed the conversion of persons behind bars, their families, and those involved in the ministry. I recognized the grace of God at work towards forgiveness and acceptance, penance and repentance. I observed how conversion moved people towards wholeness.

I presently do hospital chaplaincy at the Philippine General Hospital. Here, I have been confronted with various kinds and degrees of illnesses and pains, and I have seen

death come to many people. I have witnessed the patients, their watchers, and the health workers encounter illness, dying, and death as well as the accompanying pain and sadness. In the face of sickness and death, we are reminded of and confronted with the reality of the temporal nature of our lives. Our life is but on loan to us. The fact is that our life will end sooner or later. Before that day comes, we are called to conversion: to repentance and to a life of grace. I have seen how people, in the face of death, are transformed, by the grace of God, to have a profound sense of joy, a deep sense of calm, and an utter surrender to God's will.

We are thus called to prepare and assess our lives and respond to the invitation of our God to conversion. We are all sinners; hence, the need to change and be transformed, to turn away from sin and be worthy of heaven. No matter what our fears or anxieties in life are, we are invited to open our hearts to God and trust God's mercy and love.

What is our response to God's invitation?

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 27[26]:8-9)

(*Recited when there is no opening song.*)

**Of you my heart has spoken:
Seek his face. It is your face,
O Lord, that I seek; hide not
your face from me.**

Greeting

(*The sign of the cross is made here.*)

P—Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All—**And with your spirit.**

Introduction

(*These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.*)

P—On a high mountain, before the eyes of the chosen disciples, Jesus is transfigured. This glimpse of the Lord's divinity is meant to encourage the disciples in their following of the Lord. It is also intended to spur us on as we undergo the "Lenten moments" of our lives, when we experience doubts, pains, and life's absurdities. With Peter and the other disciples, we can say that we, too, have heard the Father's voice on the holy mountain. We do well to be attentive to it.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (*Pause*)

P—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All—**Lord, have mercy.**

P—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All—**Christ, have mercy.**

P—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All—**Lord, have mercy.**

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

All—**Amen.**

(*The Gloria is omitted.*)

Collect

P—Let us pray. (*Pause*)

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, God, for ever and ever.

All—**Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Gn 12:1-4a) (*Sit*)

God calls Abram away from the security of his land and home to form from him the chosen people. The call of Abram symbolizes our pilgrimage of faith.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

THE LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you."

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

—The word of the Lord.

All—**Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 33)

R—**Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Dm Bb Am
Lord, let your mer - cy be on

3 Dm Gm Am
us, as we place our trust

5 Dm
in you.

1. Upright is the word of the LORD,/ and all his works are trustworthy./ He loves justice and right;/ of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full. (**R**)

2. See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,/ upon those who hope for his kindness,/ to deliver them from death/ and preserve them in spite of famine. (**R**)

3. Our soul waits for the LORD,/ who is our help and our shield./ May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us/ who have put our hope in you. (**R**)

Second Reading (2Tm 1:8b-10)

Jesus gave his life for us not because we merited it but because it was the Father's gracious design. Paul invites us to be thankful by bearing our share of the hardship for the sake of the Gospel.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

BELOVED: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

—The word of the Lord.

All—**Thanks be to God.**

Verse before the Gospel

(Cf. Mt 17:5) (*Stand*)

All—**From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, hear him.**

Gospel (Mt 17:1-9)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All—**Glory to you, O Lord.**

JESUS took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led

them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily *(Sit)*

Profession of Faith *(Stand)*

(Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used.)

All—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (at the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from

there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Sisters and brothers, from the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard, and his Son is revealed as his beloved. May we too realize that we are God's beloved as we say:

R—Father, hear your beloved children.

C—For the Church: may Pope Francis, bishops, priests, deacons, and the lay faithful, become a manifestation of your love on earth in their prayer and faithful witnessing. We pray: **(R)**

C—For all who serve in the government: may your love manifest in the policies they make and implement. We pray: **(R)**

C—For many of us gathered today who are undergoing great difficulties: may we find purpose through the love and life of people around us. We pray: **(R)**

C—For our youth: help them strive to become who you want them to be, the hope of our family and of our country. We pray: **(R)**

C—For the catechumens: may they be firm in their resolve to renounce sin so as to be reborn at the font of life and salvation. We pray: **(R)**

C—For our departed loved ones: embrace them into your eternal love. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(Pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P—Father, hear your beloved children. Draw us closer to you so that we too may love as

you love through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Presentation of the Gifts

(Stand)

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

Preface: The Transfiguration of the Lord

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion

(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

Communion Antiphon

(Mt 17:5)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Prayer after Communion

(Stand)

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord, with a blessing that endures forever, and keep them faithful to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son, so that they



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Look for Ms. Joyce Chamorro

may always desire and at last attain that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body to the amazement of his Apostles.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit come down on you and remain with you forever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—The Mass has been offered. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All—Thanks be to God.



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