

Second Sunday of Lent

“This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”-- Luke 9:35

In today’s first reading from the Book of Genesis we hear of the account of the formation of the covenant between God and Abraham. Rather than animal offerings and the “smoking fire pot and flaming torch,” our Baptism is our covenant with the Lord.

St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians addresses the transformation we will undergo as “citizens of heaven.” For this reason we are to conduct ourselves in this world according to the example of Christ and His Disciples, and are to “stand firm in the Lord.”

Our Gospel recounts Jesus’ transfiguration in all its glory. We are reminded that this glory comes through Christ’s embracing of the passion. That is the paradox of the paschal mystery--that something as desirable as a share in Jesus’ transfigured glory only comes through our enduring something as abhorrent as suffering and death.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, let us look both backwards to the roots of our faith, born of the Old Testament covenant that was fulfilled in Christ Jesus, and forward to our transfigured life united with God in heaven. The only way for us to “remain” in Jesus is to follow God’s command to “listen to him.”

Readings:

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18;

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis15.htm>

Psalms 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/psalms/psalm27.htm>

Philippians 3:17-4:1;

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/philippians/philippians3.htm#v17>

Luke 9:28b-36 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke9.htm#v28>