



HOLY MASS

**SECOND SUNDAY OF
LENT (YEAR C)**

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READINGS

1st Reading: Gen. 15: 5-12, 17-18.

Resp. Psalm. 27

2nd Reading: Phil. 3: 17-4: 1

Gosp. Accl.: Mtt 17:5

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

**1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name**

**• On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand**

**2. When darkness veils his lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil**

HOMILY TOPIC

LENT AND LESSONS FROM THE TRANSFIGURATION EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION

The liturgy of today is an invitation to see beyond our Lenten penance and self-denial, the glory of Christ's resurrection and our victory over darkness. In the scriptures, the mountain is always the place of encounter between God and man, where we hear his voice and listen to Him

INTRODUCTION

The journey of lent and to the mountain both involve some sort of detachment, some lightness, some pre-occupation with the higher zone of life. On mount Tabor Peter, James and John got a glimpse of the glory that was hidden in Christ Jesus.

1ST READING

Gen. 15: 5-12, 17-18

The first reading of today expresses the solemn covenant God made with Abraham which was the foundation of God's relationship with the people of Israel. And through Christ, we are heirs to this covenant.

2ND READING

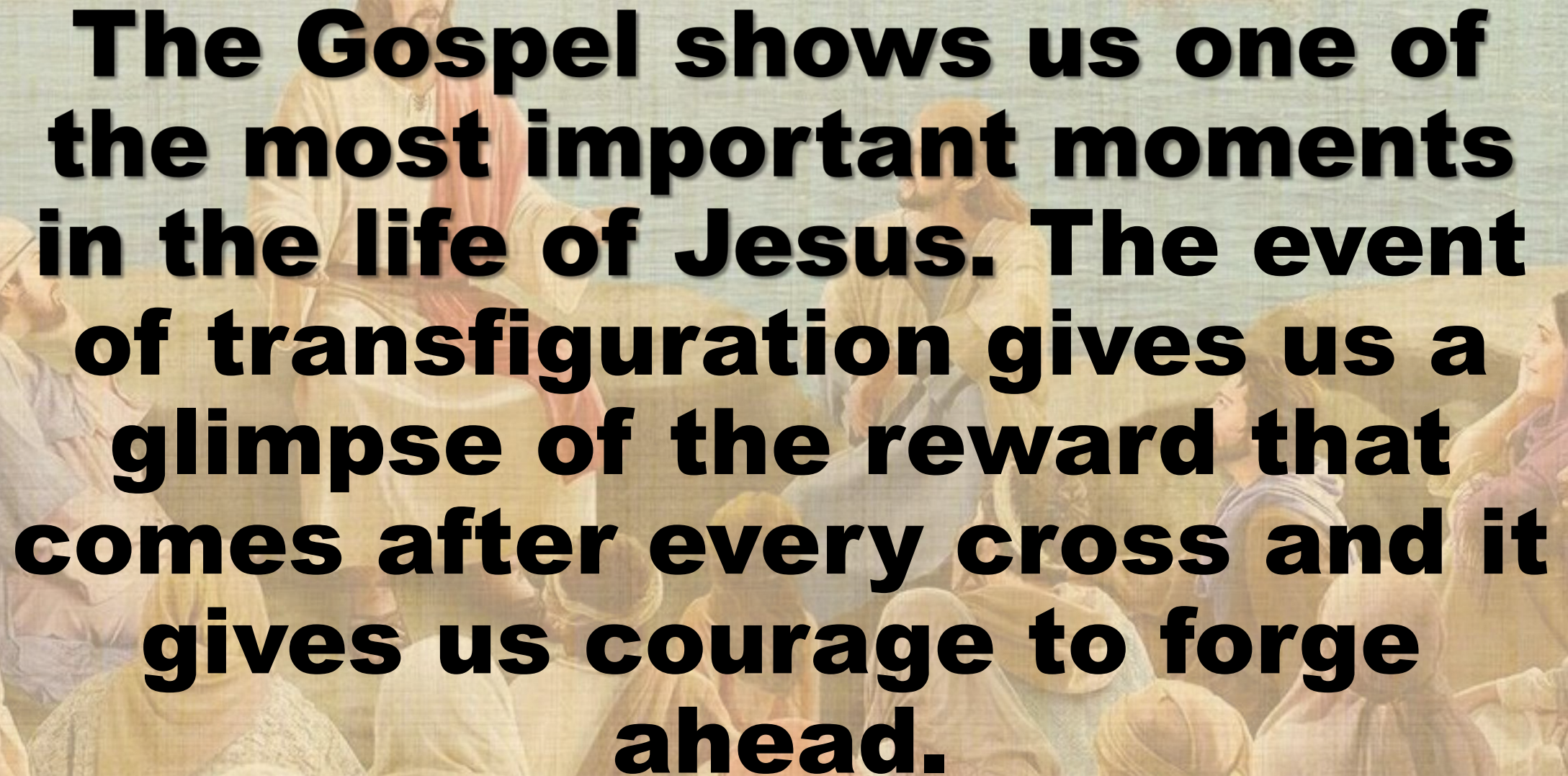
Phil. 3: 17-4: 1

A religious painting depicting Jesus, with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe with a red sash, standing on a rocky shore and gesturing with his hands as he speaks to a group of people. The group, consisting of men and women in traditional Middle Eastern attire like head coverings and robes, is gathered around him, some sitting and some standing, listening intently. The background shows a calm blue sea with a small boat in the distance and hazy mountains on the horizon under a soft sky.

In the second reading, Paul urges his new converts at Philippine to remain faithful to Christ bearing in mind that are going to share in Christ glory at the fullness of time.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:28-36



The Gospel shows us one of the most important moments in the life of Jesus. The event of transfiguration gives us a glimpse of the reward that comes after every cross and it gives us courage to forge ahead.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:28-36

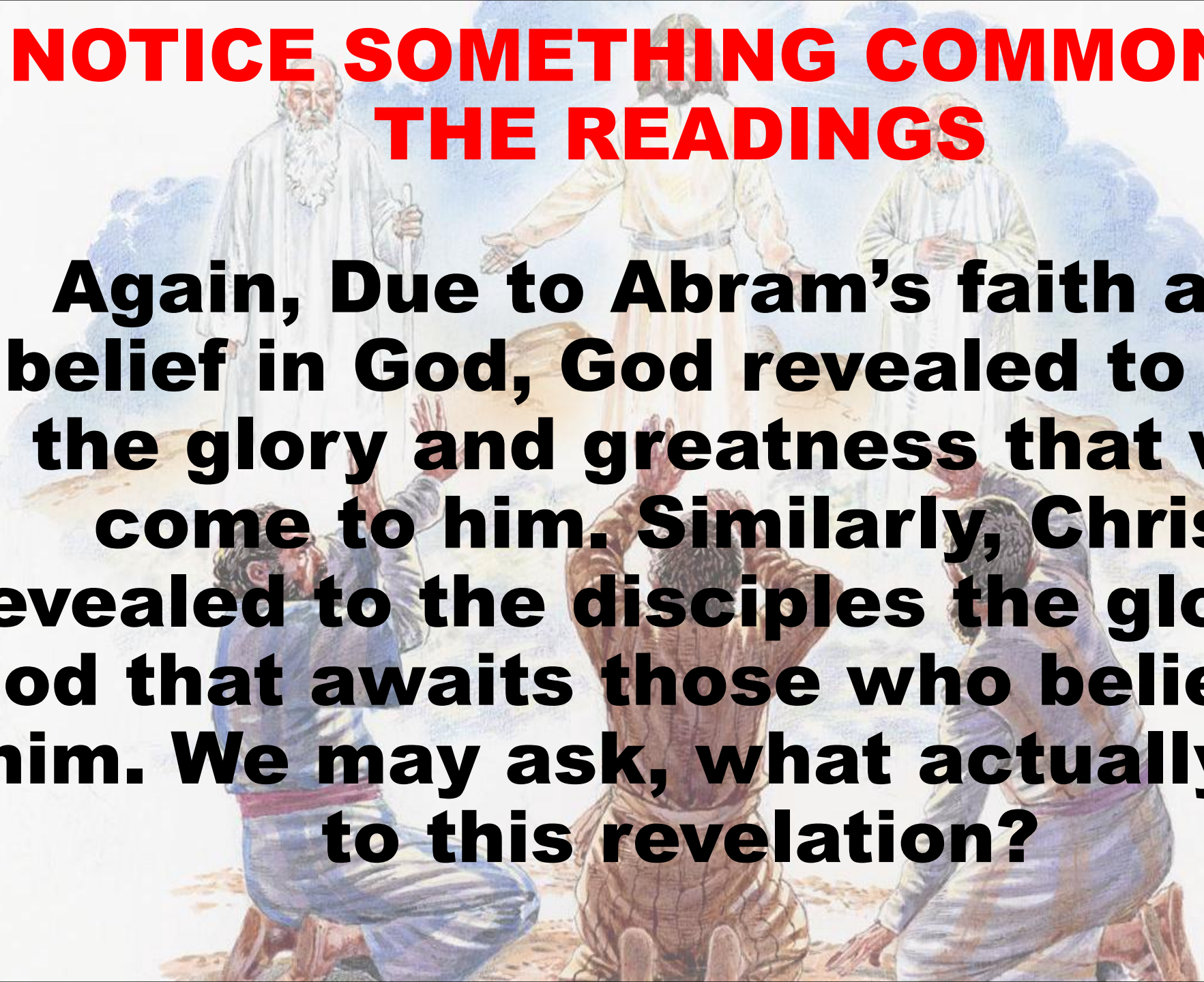
The event of transfiguration also provides us answers to innumerable questions about our faith in Christ, it gives us a clue on what life after death is by confirming the reality of heaven and the reward for the just and faithful, as all our fasting, prayers, penance, almsgiving and self-denial during this season of lent shall never go unrewarded

NOTICE SOMETHING COMMON IN THE READINGS

The first reading and the gospel have a lot in common, as both involve the revelation of God and the promise of hope. While God brought Abram outside in the first reading and asked him to look towards heaven, Christ in the gospel took some of his disciples to the mountain so they can have a glimpse of heaven.

NOTICE SOMETHING COMMON IN THE READINGS

Again, Due to Abram's faith and belief in God, God revealed to him the glory and greatness that will come to him. Similarly, Christ revealed to the disciples the glory of God that awaits those who believe in him. We may ask, what actually led to this revelation?



WHAT THE TRANSFIGURATION EXPERIENCE TEACHES US

**Our interest this morning is to
look at the barrage of
powerful lessons that the
Mountain of transfiguration
leaves us with.**

1. THE VALUE OF LENTEN SEASON AS A MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE

The climbing signifies the growth, shedding off and spiritual ascent which the Lenten season should and must entail. The Transfiguration experience teaches us that the Lenten experience should lead to a climax which is glorious. Divine encounter through the Mount of Calvary.

2. NOTHING GOOD COMES EASY

It teaches us that beyond the Cross is the Crown; beyond every story is the Glory. If we, like Abraham (1st Reading), can see our glory then we can survive in our story despite how unpleasant, realizing that the radiance of enjoyment of His Glory is always preceded by the labour of the suffering of climbing. It is the hope that makes us cope. No cross, no crown.

3. THE EXPERIENCE TEACHES ABOUT THE UNITY OF THE WITNESSES

The law and the prophets were in agreement with Jesus and his plan of salvation as seen in the gospel. All the laws and prophets point to and have their meaning only in the context of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us not separate the laws and prophecy from Christ. Christ is the only sure fulfilment of the law and the prophets (cf. Matt. 5: 17).

If God can fulfil promises of thousands of years, His prophecies about you must surely come to pass.

4. THE BEAUTY OF PRAYERFUL ATTENTION IN A WORLD OF NOISE

God gave us a caveat in His advertisement of His son by telling us to listen to Him. The art of listening is becoming a sheer uncommon commodity in today's world where God continually speaks whereas, we human beings blinded by materialism, depression, prosperity, dejection, emotion, vanity etc. continually fail to listen. Abraham had this beautiful prayerful attention in the 1st Reading and God left a message.

5. THE FACT THAT ONLY JESUS REMAINS

**It teaches us that When every other
thing vanishes, only Jesus remains.**

All other ground is sinking sand.

**When money deh, friend go
deh...(friend for a reason, for a
season, for a life time). He is the
only friend who keeps His word,
come what may, man of God, even
good friends and family may fail, but
He does not. (Mtt 24:35)**

CONCLUSION

The Transfiguration event became necessary in order to strengthen the belief and hope of the disciples in the glory of God. Our take home message is to listen to Christ as He speaks to us through this event. He tells us that the place of the cross is central in our salvation and as heaven remains a gift for all, we must purchase it with the price of the cross. Let us not reject the cross but examine ourselves during this season of lent to see if our Christianity is the type without the cross or if we carry our crosses alone or implore Christ to carry it with us.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

**May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer through out the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory
a n d p r a i s e f o r e v e r .**

Amen.

OUR WEBSITE

**[www.immaculateconception
catholicchurch.com.ng](http://www.immaculateconceptioncatholicchurch.com.ng)**

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH OF OUR PARISH

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of creation. From age to age you raise people for yourself. We thank you for the growth and achievements that we have attained so far as a family of Immaculate Conception Catholic parish. United in Jesus Christ, you form us as a parish with the mission of nurturing disciples through faith and human development, hospitality, prayer, and service. Groom us until we become equipped disciples empowered to serve.

We pray for our pastoral team, the parish priest, the pastoral council, and all leaders of organizations and societies. In their decisions and choices, grant them the wisdom to always understand your divine plan for us as a people. May they always be guided by the Holy Spirit as you build us up for your glory.

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH OF OUR PARISH

Lord Jesus, we commit our present and future projects to you. We beg you, to provide the resources we need to build a befitting place of worship for you. Please bless us and give us a generous heart moved by faith and trust.

Dearest Mary immaculate, please intercede for us before your son Jesus Christ, that our journey as a Christian people might win us eternity. Amen

Mary immaculate, mediatrix of all graces

pray for us

ASSIGNMENTS

BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT

- **Week 1 Study Mark 14:1–25.**
- **Week 2 Study Mark 14:26–50.**
- **Week 3 Study Mark 14:51–72.**
- **Week 4 Study Mark 15:1–21.**
- **Week 5 Study Mark 15:22–47.**
- **Week 6 Study Mark 16:1–20.**