

## READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.

'Here I am,' he replied.

'Take your son,' God said, 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There, offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven,

'Abraham, Abraham,' he said.

'I am here,' he replied.

'Do not raise your hand against the boy,' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.'

Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush.

Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven.

'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 115:10, 15-19

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

**I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name.

**I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,

in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.**

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS 8:31-34**

God did not spare his own Son. With God on our side who can be against us?  
Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all,  
we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give.  
Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen?  
When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus?  
No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead,  
and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

**The Word of the Lord.**

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Matthew 17:5*

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 9:2-10**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John  
and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves.  
There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white,  
whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them.  
Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.  
Then Peter spoke to Jesus. "  
'Rabbi,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here, so let us make three tents,  
one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'  
He did not know what to say; they were so frightened.  
A cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud,  
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'  
Then suddenly, when they looked round,  
they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.  
As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one  
what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.  
They observed the warning faithfully,  
though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**REFLECTION**

There were barbaric practices in Abraham's era and in Jesus' time, just as there are in our day. Genesis portrays - amid Ancient Near Eastern barbarism - Abraham's trust in God. Genesis also portrays God's faithfulness to Abraham and to the Promise God made to Abraham of a future for His chosen people through Abraham's son Isaac. Mark portrays the disciples' privileged ecstatic encounter with Jesus as the Beloved Son. The disciples were yet to be traumatised by the Romans' injustice served upon Jesus before they encountered Christ Risen. Both trauma and ecstasy take us time to come to terms with, sometimes across generations. May we pray to grow in wisdom and strength as Spirit-led people in all our circumstances - in our families, our nation, our Church and throughout the world.