

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

8th March 2009
(Shorter readings)

First Reading

Gen. 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

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 you shall 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 bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 116 (115)

Response: *I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.*

1. I trusted, even when I said:
“I am sorely afflicted.”
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord’s name. **R.**

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

R. 3. 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. **R.**

Second Reading

Rom. 8:31-34

A reading from the Letter to the Romans

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glorify and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard:

This is my beloved Son: hear him.

Glorify and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mk. 9:2-10

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

℟: **Glorify to you Lord Christ.**

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

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