

2026_03_01 Homily
Second Sunday of Lent

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/030126.cfm>

This Sunday's Gospel describes the event of the Transfiguration. The disciples are astonished and don't know what to make of this mystical experience. But the voice that comes from heaven seems to give us the main point: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Jesus' disciples are called to have a deep relationship Jesus and to listen to Him. Because in Jesus Christ, God reveals to us who He is and what He is up to in the world. God commands us to do just one thing: "Listen to Jesus." We are not called to suffer for the faith, or to lay down our lives, or to proclaim God's love. We are told to listen. And God does not expect us to listen by our own efforts only: If we are open, God will give us whatever we need to listen to Jesus and act according to his words. We are only receptors, receivers in the divine-human conversation, never the initiators or sustainers.

Through Jesus, God continues calling us to partner in the implementation of His Kingdom of Heaven on earth. So, what does God say to us, when we listen to Jesus? In our first reading, God calls Abraham to go forth from his land and from his father's house. Leaving the land means breaking with what provides security, with what defines identity, with what one controls, with what we now call the comfort zone. Faith is a journey that constantly demands from us a radical change in life. If we want to follow, there are many things we have to leave behind. Lent places us in the same dynamic: Through Jesus, God calls us to leave behind whatever prevents us from recognizing him as Lord of our lives. Sometimes its attachments, other times fears, other times wounds we haven't surrendered, or it could be other voices we pay attention to. If we want to leave behind whatever keeps us in the darkness, we have to trust God's voice only.

The first reading tells us, "So Abraham set out, as the Lord had told him." Abraham listens to God, and acts according to what the Lord commands him to do. The Transfiguration invites us to see what prevents God's light from shining in our lives. What shadows need to be surrendered? What attachments hinder our progress? What fears paralyze us? In prayer, we listen to Jesus' voice, because prayer is that encounter of transparency, in which God looks at us with love, and helps us see ourselves through his eyes. Like the disciples, we are called to treasure moments of

intimacy with Jesus, but also to discover him in everyday life: on the road, in conversations, at meals, on the Cross. Faith matures when we learn to discern Jesus' presence in everything and listen to his voice speaking to us through a variety of ways: creation, other people, events, the Scriptures, and the Church. God is always challenging us to walk as his beloved children. You and I may not be the most faithful followers Jesus ever had. It is difficult for us to understand our faith. We are not always obedient to what Christ demands from us. But today, we are here, obedient and faithful, doing exactly what Jesus commanded us to do when He said, "Do this in memory of me." And we want to go back home, doing what Jesus commands us to do: "Love one another, as I have loved you." In every second of our lives, if we listen, we will hear Jesus calling us to feed the hungry, to give a drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to welcome the homeless and to always love and serve one another, because Jesus always invites us to join the righteous of the world, while other voices call us to follow the immoral ways of the world.

We are called to listen first, and to act according to what Jesus says. May this Season of Lent, be a time to pay more attention to Jesus' voice. In the midst of too many voices calling us to hate one another, to create scapegoats, and divide our communities and societies, and to promote violence at all levels, there is only one voice calling us to join the righteous of the world.

The Universal Prayer
Second Sunday of Lent
1st March 2026

Celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, from the temptations in the wilderness, to glory on the mountain top, Jesus is always the one for us to listen to.

1. For Pope Leo, teacher of the word of God, that his words will carry the love of the Father, the truth of Jesus and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.

2. For all preparing to be baptized into Jesus at Easter, and those seeking Full Communion in the Catholic Church, that their faith may grow during this Lent as they listen to him, the Beloved Son of the Father.

Lord, have mercy.

3. For each other, that during this Lent we will rely on the power of God to bring us to holiness for God's own purpose and grace.

Lord, have mercy.

4. For those who, because of war, persecution, poverty and hunger have fled the land of their birth, that they may find a promised land of peace, safety and blessing as did Abraham and Sarah long ago.

Lord, have mercy.

5. For the people of Mexico burdened by the violence of the drug cartels, those across the Holy Land living in poverty and fear, the people of Ukraine and Russian locked in war, and the tensions growing between Iran and America, that peace will prevail everywhere.

Lord, have mercy.

6. For an increase of vocations to religious life and the priesthood, especially in the Daughters of St. Mary of Guadalupe and in the Diocese of Raleigh.

Lord, have mercy.

7. For those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, that they may receive the promised eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant:

Lord, be with all who are in need, that justice may relieve suffering, sufficient for the day relieve famine, and grace save all who will die this day. Though Christ our Lord.