

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Help Us to Love

Loving Father,
you sent us the gift of your Son,
One like us in all ways but sin,
to show us what it means to love as you love.
Listen to him, you tell us.
Provide us with the grace to hear
and respond to his voice,
to look at the world's brokenness and
not feel despair,

but see your promise that all the world
shall be transfigured by your love.
Allow us to be transfigured to do what
you will,
that we might use the life we have been
given to glorify you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Glimpses of Glory



Today's readings: Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19; Romans 8:31b–34; Mark 9:2–10. After Jesus first predicts that he will suffer, he takes Peter, James, and John apart from everyone else. These apostles see Jesus in his glory, in gleaming clothing with Moses and Elijah, whose presence communicates that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Then the apostles hear a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." As quickly as the vision appears, it ceases.

As conflicts arose between Jesus and the leaders of the day, the apostles may have taken comfort in knowing that Jesus is God's "beloved Son." Walking through the passion with Jesus, they could cling to the glimpse of Jesus' glory.

The words *beloved Son* also may have called to mind for them the sacrifice of Isaac. Abraham had been obedient to God and had not withheld his beloved son. Abraham knew God and, therefore, knew that God is a keeper of promises. Somehow, even when it seemed impossible, God's promise would be fulfilled. Abraham would be the father of many through Isaac. He believed in God's promise, even when it seemed that the promise could not be kept. In this moment we see another prefiguration of what is to come, the impossible hope that endures through Good Friday and is vindicated on Easter morning.

Where have you glimpsed resurrection? How can you hold to these moments in your times of trial?