

Readings + The Second Sunday in Lent, year B + February 25, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us a means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and rulers shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; rulers of peoples shall come from her.”

Psalmody Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

Second Reading Romans 4:13-25

*Paul writes:*¹³The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to him or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all Abraham’s descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom Abraham trusted, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, Abraham trusted that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for

he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what God had promised. ²²Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who trust in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Holy Gospel Mark 8:31-38

Mark, Matthew, and Luke all tell this story, but Luke does not include Peter's rebuke of Jesus and Jesus' rebuke of Peter. Mark has a couple differences from Matthew. In verse 35, "and for the sake of the gospel," is only in Mark, as is the whole of verse 38.

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son-of-Humanity must undergo great suffering, and be

rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²Jesus said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son-of-Humanity will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."