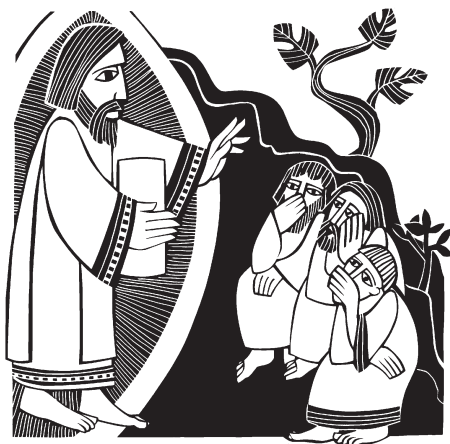


# Purification and Enlightenment Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA  
Second Sunday of Lent • Year C • March 16, 2025



*Awesome God,  
your eternal Word  
walks among us,  
and we bow down  
to the ground  
as glory shines forth—  
the glory  
of your only-begotten Son,  
whose Commandment of love  
strips all pretense  
from our hearts  
and recreates us as your  
adopted sons and daughters.*

## Sunday Word

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalms 27:1, 7-9, 13-14

Philippians 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1

Luke 9:28b-36

## Repent

We are uncertain of the exact details of our future; we do not know every detail of our life's course. As we survey the future, we find ourselves echoing Abram's question to God: "How am I to know that I shall possess it?" (Genesis 15:8).

In spite of this hesitation and uncertainty, we acclaim the Lord as our Light and Salvation. We trust his guidance, for the most high God has not remained totally veiled from our sight. He offers us a covenant of love made visible in Jesus Christ.

## For Reflection . . .

*What will help you persevere in adhering to the way of Christ?*

*How is God telling you to move forward?*

*How has your participation in the community's worship helped you in your relationship to God?*

## Renew

Glory shines upon us, and it may be at a time when we least expect it. It may be the birth of a baby, a long-sought-after reconciliation with an estranged friend, or recovery after a life-threatening sickness or addiction. Whatever the situation or the event, we feel the presence of the divine. And that presence is glorious. It is as if a window opens for a moment and life attains greater clarity. We sense the love that makes all love possible. God assures us that we are indeed his beloved.

## For Reflection . . .

*What are the high points of your journey of faith thus far, and why are those moments so important?*

*Who are the companions in faith you would take with you up to the mountaintop of prayer?*

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## Church Teaching: Christ, the Glory of the Father

Contemplating the countenance of Jesus Christ in prayer, in liturgy, and in other people draws us beyond ourselves. We are brought closer to divine mystery. For in Christ, the Son of God, we see the glory of our heavenly Father revealed. Indeed, the glory of the Son is the same as the glory of the Father.

During Lent the hymn of praise at the beginning of Sunday Mass, the Gloria, is not sung. Nevertheless, it finds an echo in our hearts, especially on this Sunday as we celebrate the mountaintop experience of the Transfiguration.

The disciples are recipients of a great gift on the mountain. They are “fully awake”—that is, very much aware of divine glory in Jesus. Soon their Master will suffer agony and death upon the Cross. Though they do not yet know it, this mountaintop experience will strengthen them for what will come. It will also dispose them to understand what will come later: the shining glory of the Resurrection of Christ.

All Christians exult in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he is our Salvation, our life, and our resurrection! Through Christ—and through him alone—we are saved and made free!

## Distinctiveness of Church Teaching

Saint John Damascene says, “Previously God, who has neither a body nor a face, absolutely could not be represented by an image. But now that he has made himself visible in the flesh and has lived with [us], I can make an image of what I have seen of God . . . and contemplate the glory of the Lord, his face unveiled.”

Every second Sunday in Lent, we return to the mountaintop of the Transfiguration. We need a reminder of the glory of Christ to sustain us in the times when we will encounter his cross. This reminder helps us stand firm in the Lord and cherish the covenant relationship we have with God in Christ. Our citizenship is in Heaven. Surrendering to that truth changes us, conforming us more closely to Christ.

## Key Images and Symbols of the Season

**HIS EXODUS**—the suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus

**IT IS GOOD THAT WE ARE HERE**—Peter’s attitude, which we also make our own as we celebrate the liturgy

**CHOSEN SON**—the heavenly Father reiterates what was heard as Jesus was baptized

**LISTEN TO HIM**—proper stance of the disciples toward Jesus

**JESUS WAS FOUND ALONE**—the Law and the Prophets, symbolized by Moses and Elijah, are fulfilled in Christ

## Preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

*Is there a particular insight or question that captures your attention either from Church teaching or from today’s readings?*

*As you contemplate the Transfiguration of Jesus, what does it mean to you that God’s glory is revealed in Jesus?*

