

# Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

## Suggestions for Leading Worship



Office of Worship  
P.O. Box 2028  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028  
Phone: (225) 242-0120  
Fax: (225) 336-8731  
E-Mail: [tranzino@diobr.org](mailto:tranzino@diobr.org)

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**RE:** Liturgical Suggestions for the Second Sunday of Lent – Year A

**Sunday or Feast Day date:** February 15-16, 2008

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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

### **An Overview...**

For the second time in little more than a month, we hear the words, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” This Sunday, we hear Matthew’s account of the transfiguration, when God again reveals Jesus to us – this time in a glorious transfiguration on the mountaintop. The voice which upholds Jesus as the beloved Son also claims us as children of God through our baptism. The transfiguration is a foreshadowing of Jesus’ glorious transfiguration from death to life, and a foreshadowing of our own coming to glory as we choose to follow Christ. We have been promised the same blessings as Abraham (First Reading) and so much more – new life and immortality. Jesus has the words of everlasting life and the voice calls us to “listen to Him.”

### **Some Considerations as You Prepare...**

1. Either Opening Prayer would work today: the first talks of entering into the glory of God which the transfigured Christ now shares. And the alternate emphasizes that we listen to the Lord so as to be led to our own transfiguration.

2. Many churches will use Form A and invite the assembly to kneel and pray the “I Confess” prayer followed by the Kyrie eleison as the penitential rite. If you use Form C, consider the strophe C-ii, “you will come in glory”.
3. The Gloria and any mention of Alleluia are omitted on Lenten Sundays.
4. There is a proper (mandatory) Preface for the Second Sunday of Lent (P13). You may also want to use one of the two Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation.

### **Reflection questions...**

1. How do you make Lent a more focused time for listening to Jesus? What is he telling you?
2. How is your Lent transforming you into a better disciple of Jesus?
3. When have you glimpsed Christ’s glory? How has it affected your daily life?

### **Upcoming...**

1. Monday is Presidents’ Day. It would be appropriate to include an intercessory prayer for our president and other governmental leaders on this day.
2. Friday, February 22, is the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. The readings of the feast day replace those of the Lenten weekday. Inasmuch as Pope Benedict XVI is coming to the USA in April, it might be a good thing to use this opportunity to begin to reflect with the congregation on the role of the successor of St. Peter in the Church.
3. It is not too early to publicize your Lenten reconciliation services and times, as well as your Triduum services.

## **Suggested Intercessory Prayers for the Second Sunday of Lent**

*Priest:* In the name of Jesus who was transfigured in prayer, let us pray for the needs of all.

Deacon (or if there is no deacon, another reader):

1. For our Church, God's countless people, and for the elect who desire to join us ... we pray to the Lord.
2. For the children of Abraham today: Muslims, Jews and Christians ... we pray to the Lord.
3. For our world to be transformed, so that generosity replaces greed, compassion replaces prejudice, love overcomes all differences ... we pray to the Lord.
4. For our president and for those seeking that high office, that they may be given wisdom to choose God's values and so make compassionate and just decisions ... we pray to the Lord.
5. For each of us here that we may see with faith what the apostles saw with their eyes on the mountain top – the glory of God ... we pray to the Lord.
6. For our friends and loved ones who have died [especially \_\_\_\_\_] ... we pray to the Lord.
7. In silence we lift up the prayers of our hearts.

*[pause; the presider alone concludes]*

*Priest:* Gracious God, listen to the prayers of your people gathered here today. Transform our hearts during this Lenten season so that we may become faithful servants who bring you praise and glory. We ask this in the name of the transfigured Christ. Amen.