

# Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

## Suggestions for Leading Worship



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**RE: Liturgical Suggestions for Second Sunday of Lent – Cycle B**

**Sunday date:** March 8, 2009

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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

### **An Overview for this Sunday...**

In this Sunday's Gospel of the transfiguration, Jesus is addressed by God as the "beloved Son." In the first reading from Genesis, the angel of the Lord refers to Abraham's son in the same way: the angel says to Abraham, "You did not withhold from me your own beloved son." By pairing these two readings, the *Lectionary* invites us to understand both stories in terms of one another. In doing so, the *Lectionary* is drawing on a richly developed tradition in which Christian commentators have seen many such connections between Christ's own sacrifice and the story of the binding of Isaac: both stories center on an only beloved son; both stories take place on a mountain; in one story, the beloved son is spared from death, but in the other we know that The Beloved Son will not be spared. This is a point taken up by Paul in the second reading: God "did not spare his own Son, but handed Him over for us all."

*(from Living Liturgy, J. A. Zimmerman, et al, Liturgical Press, Collegeville MN)*

### **Questions for Faith Sharing...**

- 1) How do I experience the “ups and downs” –“the mountain and desert time” in my own life? How have I been transfigured through these life experiences?
- 2) Do I see myself as God’s beloved son or daughter? Have I been spared as Isaac in the first reading? Or have I shared in Jesus’ sacrifice? Have I also experienced Christ’s transfiguration and resurrection?
- 3) How might I better reflect God’s sacrificial love in my service to others?

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

- 1) Continue the Lenten Pattern to the Introductory Rites which you have established.
- 2) The regular, first Opening Prayer for the Second Sunday of Lent emphasizes “listening to the Son” so that we may find the “way to glory.” The alternate Opening Prayer highlights the images of light and darkness, and invites us to listen to the voice of God who calls us to conversion.
- 3) For the Second Sunday of Lent the R.C.I.A. provides an optional but recommended “Penitential Rite for Baptized Christians” who seek full communion in the Catholic Church. This Rite is for baptized Christians, it is not intended for the Elect (those preparing for Baptism). Similar to a Scrutiny (it lacks a Prayer of Exorcism) this rite is a way for the community to pray for these Candidates asking that they be strengthened as they make final preparations for the Easter Sacraments (see R.C.I.A., nos. 459-472).
- 4) There is a prescribed Preface, P 13, for the Second Sunday of Lent, to be used today.
- 5) Consider using one of the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation during the season of Lent.

## Sample Intercessory Prayers for the Second Sunday of Lent

(from *Prayers for Sundays and Seasons, Year B*. Peter Scagnelli, Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago, 1997)

*Priest:* To the God who did not withhold His own Son, but gave Him up for us, let us offer our intercessions.

*Deacon* (or other Reader if there is no deacon):

- 1) That the people of God enduring persecution or tested by suffering may behold in the Lord's transfiguration the pledge of paschal victory, we pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the angel of God may stay the hand of powers and interests that threaten to sacrifice peace in a holocaust of hate, we pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Lenten penance of Christians may bear fruit in practical charity for all who experience hardship or distress, we pray to the Lord.
- 4) That the Elect may listen to the voice of God's Beloved Son and by obedient faith, share in the blessings promised to Abraham, we pray to the Lord.
- 5) That we may always leave this place, a holy mountain of word and worship, with new vigor for bearing witness to the victory of the risen Christ, we pray to the Lord.
- 6) That Christ Jesus who died and was raised to the right hand of God, may lead our faithful departed to transfigured glory, we pray to the Lord.

[*pause; the presider alone concludes*]

*Priest:* God of all goodness,  
You did not spare your only-begotten Son  
but gave Him up for the sake of us sinners.  
Strengthen within us the gift of obedient faith,  
that, in all things, we may follow faithfully in Christ's footsteps,  
and, with Him, be transfigured in the light of your glory.  
We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.