

## The 2nd Sunday of Lent - Year A – 3/1/2026 – Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen

**First Reading – Genesis 12:1-4a:** The Lord commanded Abram to leave his homeland and go to a new land that the Lord would show him. The Lord promised to bless Abram and make him the father of a great nation, and Abram obeyed, leaving his home as instructed.

**Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 33:** A prayer expressing trust in the Lord’s mercy and justice. The psalmist praises the Lord’s works and faithfulness and acknowledges that the Lord protects and delivers those who fear and trust in Him, ultimately placing their faith in the Lord’s goodness.

**Second Reading – 2 Timothy 1:8b-10:** Paul encourages Timothy to suffer for the Gospel, reminding him that the Lord saved and called them to holiness, not by their own works, but by the grace and purpose of the Lord, which was revealed through the presence and victory of Christ over death.

**Gospel – Matthew 17:1-9:** Jesus led Peter, James, and John up a mountain, where He was transfigured before them, shining brightly, and they saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. A voice from heaven said that Jesus was the beloved Son of the Lord, and the disciples were told not to speak of it until Jesus had risen from the dead.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the Second Sunday of Lent, the Church's liturgy features a Gospel account of the Transfiguration of Christ. This is considered a pivotal event in Jesus' journey of salvation, affirming, and supporting the faith journey of his disciples and each of us Christians: Epiphany – Transfiguration – Reign (the beginning of his mission, a revelation to support faith, and the Passion and Resurrection).

### **1. The Transfiguration both affirms the words of Scripture and marks the beginning of his Passion.**

A highly symbolic detail is the presence of two major figures from the Old Testament: Moses and Elijah, two characters who summarize all of the Law of Moses, and the prophets (Elijah). These two figures symbolize the Law and the prophets, the two main doors of Scripture in which it is announced that Christ must suffer before entering into his glory.

Their presence is living proof that Jesus' prophecy about his future is perfectly consistent with Scripture.

- Moses was the man of the Exodus, of Mount Sinai, and of the crossing of the Red Sea.
- Elijah, the great prophet, suffered for God and for his people before being taken up in the cloud...

Like a new Elijah, Jesus is also called to suffer before being “taken up” (9:51) in heavenly glory. He is also the new Moses in the new Exodus, in the new Passover of a new Covenant, who will cross the sea of death to liberate his people and lead them to the land of eternal life.

## **2. An event of faith and hope.**

Jesus' transfiguration on Mount Tabor revealed his divinity to strengthen the disciples' faith. He gave them a foretaste of his glory so that they would accept the path of suffering he was about to undertake.

The disciples needed support through this Transfiguration, for one day, on another hill, the sky would darken, Jesus' face would be drenched in sweat and blood, his clothes would no longer shine, but would be stripped from his body.

Jesus would have two thieves as companions. There would be no more voices from heaven, only mocking and derisive voices. The disciples would be scattered and unwilling to participate in what was happening. The Transfiguration also gave the disciples hope: the path of suffering would lead to happiness, and a humiliating death would lead to a joyful Resurrection. Like students patiently and diligently studying in the hope of a good exam, like farmers who stay up late and wake early, enduring the sun and rain to plant and cultivate in the hope of a bountiful harvest...

The hope of the glory of the Resurrection will help the disciples (and each of us too) courageously accept the painful suffering and humiliating death of our holy Master.

*Lord Jesus, you call us to lift our hearts to be united with you in divine light, and you also call us to commit ourselves to life to live our earthly pilgrimage in accordance with your will. Grant that we may always listen to and carry out your will in all the events of our lives, with the hope of participating in the final transfiguration in your eternal kingdom. Amen.*