

# 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT



## I surrender

Loving God,  
I come before you,  
asking for your mercy.  
May my faith be as strong  
as that of Abraham & Sarah.  
Grant me steadfastness this Lent,  
in my pursuit of a deeper prayer life.  
Free me from obstacles  
that keep me from you.  
May I find peace in your presence.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Genesis 22

## Sunday, February 25, 2024 Ever-present and abundant mercy

At the Transfiguration Peter, James, and John glimpse Jesus' glory revealed before them on the mountaintop. Peter, intent on staying at the site of their beatific vision of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, suggests that three tents be made. "Rabbi, it is good that we are here," he tells Jesus.

Each week we participate in a mystery as we take part in the Lord's Supper. There, in the event of word, bread and the wine are joined for us to receive and become the body of Christ. We pray that we "may become one body, one spirit in Christ." When we are especially attentive to the prayers, songs, and gestures of the liturgy, we may say to ourselves and one another, "It is good that we are here." Reformed and renewed by the liturgy, we leave the church

to bring the presence of Christ and the Word of God into the world.

Just as the apostles could not stay with Jesus on the mountaintop, the faithful cannot remain closed up in the church. In the of the covenant between the Lord and his people in Holy Communion the faithful the faithful are drawn into the compelling love of Christ and set on fire. Our mission, as we leave the liturgy, is to testify to God's love, bringing hope to those facing difficult times. We make Christ known as we accompany others.

*Today's readings: Genesis 22:1–2, 9–18; Psalm 116:10, 15–19; Romans 8:31–34; Mark 9:2–10.*



# This Week at Home

## Monday, February 26

### Forgiven

“Forgive and you will be forgiven,” Jesus tells his followers in today’s gospel. As Jesus preaches mercy, he explains that the actions of others will reflect our actions. Forgiveness of others results in our own forgiveness. During this week, consider whom you need to forgive and from whom you need to request forgiveness. *Today’s readings: Daniel 9:4–10; Psalm 79:8–13; Luke 6:36–38.*

## Tuesday, February 27

### A just, humble life

The readings today give instructions on how to live. In Isaiah, the Lord instructs “to make justice your aim,” aid the orphan and widow, and right wrongs. Jesus tells his followers to live with humility. “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” When we do good things, it is not for recognition. Today, strive to forward the kindnesses you have received... Buying coffee for a coworker, assist a friend, or do another’s chore. Such acts can be testimonies of God’s love. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16–17, 21, 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

## Wednesday, February 28

### Distractions

Today we are reminded of what we are preparing for: Jesus’ passion, death, resurrection, and ascension. During this season we make promises of things we will sacrifice, yet sometimes we become distracted. We are being called to transform our hearts and our lives for the service of our Lord. Today contemplate how your household can remain attentive to the message of God. What are some of the distractions? How can you overcome them? *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

## Thursday, February 29

### Making good choices

The gospel from Luke today presents the story of the rich man who ignored the needs of the poor man lying at his door. After death, the poor Lazarus lived in comfort while the rich man was in torment. Our daily choices can lead us to God or away from God. Consider whose needs you ignore while allowing yourself to eat your fill. *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–6; Luke 16:19–31.*

## Friday, March 1

### Families

In today’s account of Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob, we see an example of jealousy building among brothers until they sell Joseph to foreigners. The eleven brothers appreciated neither their father’s preferential treatment of Joseph nor their brother’s dreams and wanted to be rid of him. Are there unresolved tensions in your family that are eroding relationships? Examine whether you play a part in the harm or healing in this family dynamic. *Today’s readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13, 17–28; Psalm 105:16–21; Matt. 21:33–46.*

## Saturday, March 2

### The love of God

It is no secret the lengths to which God goes to show us love. We know God wants to be in relationship with us, but sometimes we are reluctant. The moment we say yes to the relationship, God comes the rest of the way. The psalm tells us that God overlooks shortcomings and forgives sin. Today recite the psalm, and with each verse, pause to feel the love and presence of God. *Today’s readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–4, 9–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*