

Second Sunday of Lent (A) – 1 March 2026

Gen 12:1–4; 2 Tim 1:8–10; Mt 17:1–9

INTRODUCTION

Imagine seeing a movie trailer that shows a glimpse of the hero at their most glorious moment. The music swells, the scene dazzles, and then—black screen: “Coming soon.” A friend once said the hardest part wasn’t waiting for the movie—it was returning to homework and chores after seeing that preview. Yet that glimpse changed everything: he knew where the story was heading.

Today’s Gospel is like that trailer. Jesus’ Transfiguration is God’s preview of glory, given to strengthen the disciples before the dark days ahead. They climb a mountain—leaving familiar seas and nets—so they can see Jesus in a new light. His face shines; his clothes blaze. Moses and Elijah appear. And then comes the cloud: *“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”*

Faith asks us to climb our own mountains, to leave the familiar and see God’s light in our lives. Moments of grace

may be brief, but they change our perspective, sustain our courage, and prepare us for the journey ahead. As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us open our hearts to this preview of God’s glory in our lives.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus Christ,

- you revealed your glory on the mountain to strengthen your disciples for the journey ahead. Forgive us when we fail to see your light in the storms of our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

- you call us to listen to you, even when your path is difficult or demanding. Forgive us when we resist your call or cling only to comfort.

Christ, have mercy.

- you touch us with your mercy to lift our fear and awaken our courage. Forgive us when we let fear or doubt hold us back from following you.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the loving God have mercy on us,
forgive our sins, and strengthen us to follow Christ
courageously, even when the journey is steep or uncertain.
Amen.

COLLECT

God of light and glory,
you revealed the splendour of your Son on the holy
mountain.

Open our eyes to your presence in the world,
and strengthen us to follow him faithfully,
even through suffering and trial.

Help us to recognise your light in ordinary moments,
so that hope and courage guide every step of our lives.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOMILY: A Preview Worth the Climb

A friend once told me that as a child he loved movie trailers
more than the films themselves. Those thirty-second
previews showed the best scenes, the music swelled, the

hero stood victorious—and then suddenly the screen went
black: “*Coming soon.*”

The hardest part, he said, wasn’t waiting for the movie. It
was having to go back to homework and chores after
seeing that glimpse of glory. Yet that little preview changed
everything. Now he knew where the story was heading.

The Gospel of the Transfiguration is exactly that: God’s
trailer. A preview of glory.

And it comes just when it is most needed.

Jesus has begun to speak openly about suffering,
rejection, and death. The disciples are shaken. Peter even
tries to stop him: “*God forbid, Lord!*” This is not the road
they signed up for. They were hoping for success,
admiration, maybe even comfort. Not crosses.

So Jesus does something unexpected. He takes three of
them—Peter, James, and John—and leads them up a high
mountain.

Already, that tells us something. Jesus does most of his
ministry by the Sea of Galilee. These men are fishermen.

They know boats, nets, storms, and sleepless nights. Mountains are not their natural habitat. But sometimes faith requires us to leave what is familiar in order to see clearly.

I once knew people who spent every weekend climbing mountains. When they ran out of local ones, they went abroad. I never quite shared their enthusiasm—I prefer flat walks—but I understand the attraction. From the top, everything looks different. Even a small hill can change your whole perspective. It's why many of us like a window seat on a plane. From above, the messy sprawl below suddenly makes sense.

That is exactly what happens on this mountain.

Peter, James, and John see Jesus as they have never seen him before. His face shines like the sun. His clothes blaze with light. They realise: this man who gets tired, who eats with sinners, who touches the sick—he belongs uniquely to God. He lives fully in this world, but he is rooted in another: the Kingdom of God.

Then Moses and Elijah appear. Moses—the one who met God on the mountain and only later understood what God had been doing. Elijah—the one who discovered that God is not always in storms and fire, but in a gentle whisper. Past and future, Law and Prophets, all converging in Jesus.

And then comes the heart of it all: the cloud and the voice—

“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”

The disciples fall to the ground in fear. And here is one of the most human, comforting details in the Gospel: Jesus comes close. He touches them. And he says, *“Get up. Do not be afraid.”*

God does not overwhelm us to frighten us. He reveals himself to strengthen us.

No wonder Peter blurts out, *“Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here.”*

We may never have seen Jesus shine like the sun—but many of us have known moments when we could honestly

say something like that. Moments when life suddenly felt right. A deep conversation late at night. A piece of music that stopped us in our tracks. Holding a newborn child. Sitting quietly watching the sea or a sunset.

I once heard of a Jesuit priest working in a very poor village. One evening a rough-looking man invited him to his shack. The priest hesitated—but went. The man sat him down facing the horizon. The sun was setting in silence. After a while the man said, *“I have nothing to give you. But I thought you would like to see this.”*

That was his moment of transfiguration. Pure gift. Pure grace.

Peter, overwhelmed, suggests building tents. It’s a very human instinct. He wants to do something, to fix the moment in place, to make sure it doesn’t slip away. We do the same. We reach for our phones to capture the moment—sometimes missing the moment itself.

But this is not a moment for doing. It is a moment for receiving.

The voice from the cloud gently redirects him: *“Listen.”*

Some graces cannot be organised, stored, or controlled. They can only be savoured. Like a celebration—you miss its joy if you’re already thinking about washing the dishes. When such moments come, our calling is not to manage them, but to be still, grateful, attentive.

And when Peter finally lets go of control, something beautiful happens: *Jesus comes and touches them.*

If we allow ourselves to be still before grace, the Lord will touch our lives too.

But the mountain is not the destination.

They must come back down—to arguments, misunderstandings, sickness, and fear. Back to storms worse than any they faced at sea. And beyond that: Jerusalem. Gethsemane. Golgotha.

The Transfiguration does not remove suffering from Jesus’ path. It reframes it. The cross is not the goal; it is the way. Glory is the goal.

That is why this moment comes here—when darkness is gathering. Light is given not to deny suffering, but to make it bearable.

Years later, Peter will remember this moment when persecution comes. He will say, *“We were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”* When courage fails, memory sustains. The preview becomes strength.

Our own lives move between wilderness and mountain, between storm and stillness. Painful moments often stick longest in memory—but today’s Gospel invites us to remember the light as well. Those moments when we were carried, consoled, strengthened.

They change how we see the *here*. We often wish we were somewhere else—different job, different people, different life. Sometimes change is necessary. Sometimes God truly calls us, like Abraham, to set out. But often we simply need to see more deeply where we already are.

Every person we meet is someone of whom God could say, *“This is my beloved.”*

At the end of the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples to keep silence—for now. Some experiences are too deep for slogans. They are meant to be lived. People who live from a transformed heart rarely need many words.

Let me end with one last story.

A mountain guide once said the most dangerous part of a climb is not the ascent, but the descent. People relax too early. They forget what they have seen. The wise climber goes down slowly, carrying the memory of the view.

The Transfiguration gives us that view.

We return to ordinary life—work, responsibility, struggle—but not unchanged. We go back with a quiet certainty burning within us: the light is real, love is stronger than death, and the journey—however steep—leads somewhere.

And when the road grows heavy again, may we hear the same gentle words spoken to us:

“Get up. Do not be afraid.”

INVITATION TO THE CREED

Let us profess our faith together, confident that God's glory sustains us on our journey:

Alternative profession of faith for personal meditation:

I believe in the merciful love of the Father,
who called creation into being
and entrusted it to us,
so that we may care for it according to his will,
that all creatures may live within it.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
whose life in word and deed
bore witness to the love of the Father.
He is our brother and companion on the way,
our saviour from all that is lost.

He shared our darkness
until the Father freed him
from the deepest darkness of death
and raised him into the light of his glory.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the love between the Father and the Son,
our strength for faith, hope, and love.
He is present in the Church of Christ
and leads her into the fullness of truth.
He is God's great invitation to us to make the triune love of
God visible and tangible in the world.
Through us he wishes to continue the work of Jesus Christ
and one day grant us fullness of life in him. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we bring our gifts to the altar, let us remember that
everything we have is from God. Let us pray: that our
sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father almighty:

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Loving God, bread and wine are gifts of your goodness.
From your hand we receive what sustains us in body and
soul. With this bread on the altar, we remember your care
for us and your concern for all people.
Strengthen us on our journey through life,

and encourage us to care for one another,
so that a world according to your will may grow.
With gratitude we receive the fruits of the earth
and prepare them for this celebration
to which you have invited us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
You have called us to follow Christ faithfully,
and you have revealed to us the splendour of his glory,
that we might be strengthened for the journey of faith.
Today, as we recall his Transfiguration,
we see a preview of the glory that awaits us,
and we are reminded that light shines brightest in moments
of trial. Even in times of struggle, suffering, or uncertainty,
your light calls us to hope, courage, and love.
Therefore we praise you with all the angels,
as in joyful celebration we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

Brothers and sisters, Jesus taught us that we can bring
everything to God in prayer:
our joys, our worries, our fears, and our hopes.
We do not pray alone, but together, as one family,
trusting that God's Spirit sustains us and guides us.
Let us now join hands and pray together, confident in
God's love:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil,
and keep us safe in body, mind, and spirit.
Strengthen us to resist temptation, to act with courage,
and to follow your Son faithfully on the path of life.
May your Spirit guide us in every decision,
so that our words, thoughts, and actions
reflect your love and your light in the world.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus, you said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

Grant us that peace today, and help us to carry it into the world. Calm the storms that trouble our hearts, heal the wounds of anger or resentment, and open our eyes to see your presence in every encounter.

Give us the courage to forgive, the patience to listen, and the strength to act with mercy, justice, and love.

May your peace guide our steps and shine through our lives, so that others may glimpse your glory through us.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, who reveals the glory of God and walks with us on our journey. Blessed are those called to this mountain of grace, to receive the Bread that strengthens us for the path ahead.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, let us remember the mountain top where God's glory shone. Though we return to daily struggles, the light we have glimpsed sustains us.

In the quiet, let us hear Jesus say:

"Get up. Do not be afraid."

Let this nourishment strengthen us to live with hope, love, and courage in the days ahead.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of life, we thank you for Jesus, who gives himself to us and strengthens us through the Word of the Good News and the Bread of Life. Help us to carry the light of your glory into our daily lives, to bring hope where there is despair, courage where there is fear, and love where there is conflict.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God's light shine upon your path,
and may his courage strengthen you in the trials that lie
ahead.

May hope guide your steps, love fill your heart,
and the memory of Christ's glory sustain you in every
moment.

May the faithful and loving God bless and protect you,
• the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The Transfiguration shows us that even brief glimpses of
God's glory can sustain us through life's challenges. Look
for those moments of light and grace in your week—and
carry them down the mountain with you, strengthened and
unafraid.

Monday of the 2nd Week of Lent (02.03.2026)

Daniel 9:4–10; Luke 6:36–38

INTRODUCTION

There is a simple story told about a man who carried a
small notebook everywhere he went.

Whenever someone offended him, disappointed him, or
failed him, he wrote it down carefully.

One day, a friend asked him, "Why do you keep that
book?"

He replied, "So I don't forget."

The friend gently answered, "And what if God kept such a
book about you?"

Sin and guilt—two words that shape today's readings and
our own lives.

Sin and guilt—realities we often recognise more easily in
others than in ourselves.

Yet Lent is not about keeping accounts. It is about opening
our hearts.

We are already well into our Lenten journey toward Easter.
This is a time given to us to look honestly at our lives, to

recognise where we need conversion, and to rediscover how precious life is when it is shaped by mercy rather than judgement.

Today we welcome Christ among us—
He who reveals a God who does not keep a notebook of our failures,
but who delights in mercy and invites us to live the same way.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brothers and sisters,
trusting in the mercy of God,
let us acknowledge our sins
and prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
Lord Jesus Christ, you give us the commandment of love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, you show us how to live with
compassion and generosity. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to a new beginning in mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God of mercy,
who never keeps an account of our sins
but rejoices when we turn back to him,
forgive us all our failings,
free our hearts from judgement and hardness,
and renew us in compassion and generosity,
so that we may walk in the freedom of his children
and come to everlasting life. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Eternal God,
for the salvation of our souls
you call us to discipline our lives
and to walk the path of repentance.
Free us from sin, strengthen us in mercy,
and help us to fulfil the commandments
that your love has placed before us.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A woman once said, “I don’t judge anyone—I just notice everything.”

It sounds harmless, even humorous, but it reveals something deeply human: our tendency to measure, compare, and quietly condemn. Today’s readings place two mirrors before us.

One shows us who God is.

The other shows us who we are called to become.

In the first reading, the prophet Daniel gives voice to one of the most honest prayers in Scripture.

There is no excuse-making, no blaming others:

“We have sinned. We have done wrong. We have acted wickedly.”

And yet, the prayer does not end in despair, because it is grounded in trust:

“To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness.”

Only when we know we are loved can we be that honest.

Only when we trust in mercy can we admit our failures.

God’s faithfulness stands in contrast to our

unfaithfulness—but God never withdraws his open hands.

In the Gospel, Jesus goes even further.

He does not simply ask us to accept God’s mercy.

He asks us to live it.

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Not: “Try to be better.”

Not: “Judge carefully.”

But: “Be like God.”

This is a high calling.

We know how easily we judge, condemn, and keep quiet mental records of one another’s faults.

We live in a culture quick to judge and slow to forgive.

And yet Jesus insists on a different logic:

Give, and there will be gifts for you.

The more we give away—compassion, forgiveness, generosity—the richer we become.

This is one of the great paradoxes of the Gospel.

We think we gain by holding on.

Jesus tells us we receive by letting go.

Compassion, refusing to judge, offering pardon—these are

not small gestures.

They are ways of giving ourselves.

And when we give ourselves, we create space for God to give us a *full measure*—

pressed down, shaken together, running over.

Jesus himself lived this truth completely.

He gave everything—even his life.

And what looked like loss became the source of life for the world.

Let me return to the story of the man with the notebook.

Years later, he was asked what he would do with it.

He said, “I’ve stopped writing things down.

I realised that every page I filled hardened my heart.”

He paused, then added, “I wanted God’s mercy, but I wasn’t willing to pass it on.”

Lent invites us to put down our notebooks.

To trust in God’s mercy.

And to let that mercy shape how we live.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Brothers and sisters,

as we place bread and wine upon this altar,

let us also place before the Lord

our desire to let go of judgement,

to forgive as we have been forgiven,

and to give of ourselves without measure.

Let us pray that our sacrifice and our lives may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,

receive the gifts we offer you in humility.

As we place bread and wine upon this altar,

shape our hearts in mercy and generosity,

so that our lives may become an offering

pleasing in your sight.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For in this season of Lent
you call your people to conversion of heart.
You reveal yourself as rich in mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in compassion.
Through your Son, you teach us
that true greatness is found not in judging,
but in forgiving;
not in holding back,
but in giving generously.
Therefore, with angels and archangels
and all the saints,
we proclaim your glory,
as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

With hearts opened by mercy
and freed from the burden of keeping accounts,
let us pray with confidence to the Father
who gives without measure
and calls us to do the same:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from the hardness of heart
that judges, condemns, and withholds forgiveness.
Graciously grant peace in our days,
that, supported by your mercy,
we may be free from sin
and generous in love,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you showed us that true peace is born of mercy,
not of judgement,
and that forgiveness opens the way to new life.
Look not on our sins,
but on your own compassion at work in your Church,
and grant us peace—
peace in our hearts,
peace in our relationships,
and peace in our world.
You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

We have received mercy made flesh.
What we have received as gift,
we are now sent to share.
May this communion expand our hearts,
so that God's generosity may flow through us
into the lives of others.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of compassion,
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
May the mercy we have received
take root in our hearts
and bear fruit in lives of forgiveness,
generosity, and peace.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of mercy bless you,
free you from the burden of judging others,
and give you a generous and compassionate heart.

May Christ, who gave himself without measure,
teach you to forgive as you have been forgiven
and to give without counting the cost.

May the Holy Spirit expand your heart
so that you may receive God's full measure
and pour it out in love for others.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

"Mercy is our strength." — Pope Francis

This week, put down the notebook.

Give mercy—and discover God's full measure poured into
your life.

Tuesday of the 2nd Week of Lent – 03.03.2026

Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Matthew 23:1–12

INTRODUCTION

Once there was a village known for its beautiful clock tower. Visitors admired it from afar, marveling at its craftsmanship and splendor. Yet the villagers knew a quiet truth: the clock had stopped long ago. It looked impressive, but it no longer told the time. People would glance at it and feel impressed, but it could not guide them in daily life.

In a similar way, our faith can sometimes appear impressive to the outside world—our words sound holy, our actions seem pious—but if it does not reach the heart and shape the way we live, it is like that stopped clock: beautiful in appearance, but powerless to guide. Today's readings speak to this very danger. Through the prophet Isaiah, God warns against empty worship and superficial devotion. In the Gospel, Jesus challenges those who speak well but fail to live out their words, showing that true greatness comes not from outward display, recognition, or

status, but from humble service.

Lent calls us to examine not just what we say we believe, but how we live. It invites us to let our faith “tick” again— not for show, but for love; not for recognition, but for service. It challenges us to carry one another’s burdens, to follow the one Teacher and Lord, Jesus Christ, and to walk humbly with our one Father in heaven. As we gather, let us open our hearts to him, who comes not to weigh us down, but to give us rest and the strength to serve.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus, you are the one Teacher who shows us the way of life. *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ Jesus, you came not to burden us, but to carry our burdens with us. *Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you humbled yourself to serve all and lift up the lowly. *Lord, have mercy.*

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God of mercy,
who calls us from empty words to faithful deeds,
forgive us our sins,
lift from us every false pride and unnecessary burden,
and lead us back to the path of humble service,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Lord our God,
protect your Church and do not abandon her.
Without you we perish,
and subject to weakness we easily lose our way.
Cleanse us from what harms us,
teach us to walk in humility and truth,
and guide us toward what leads to salvation.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A man once carried a heavy backpack on a long journey. When someone offered to help, he refused — not because the bag was valuable, but because he wanted others to see how strong he was. Eventually, exhausted, he collapsed. The burden was never meant to be admired; it was meant to be shared.

This image helps us enter today's readings. Jesus speaks sharply to religious leaders who speak well but do not live well, who impose heavy burdens but refuse to lift even a finger to help. Isaiah speaks with equal force, reminding the people that worship without justice, prayer without conversion, is empty noise before God.

The problem Jesus exposes is not the Law itself. God's commandments remain holy and life-giving. The danger lies in turning faith into a performance, authority into self-importance, and religion into a burden rather than a blessing. Jesus says clearly: "*Do what they tell you, but do not follow their example.*" God's word remains true even when God's servants fall short.

Again and again in the Gospel, Jesus shows us a different way. He does not add weight to tired shoulders; he invites the weary to come to him for rest. He himself accepts the heaviest burden — the burden of our sin, our suffering, our hostility — and carries it to the cross. The law of Christ is not burden-imposing but burden-lifting. As Saint Paul discovered, even in chains, "*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*"

Jesus also challenges our hunger for recognition. Titles, honours, places of importance — these tempt every age, including our own. But in the family of faith there is only one Father and one Teacher. All of us are learners. All of us are brothers and sisters. Greatness in the Church is not measured by status, but by service.

Lent calls us to examine not only what we believe, but how we live:

Do my words match my deeds?

Do I make faith lighter for others — or heavier?

Do I seek recognition — or do I quietly serve?

The clock tower in the village looked impressive, but it did

not guide anyone. Faith, too, must move if it is to give life. As Pope Francis reminds us, it is in humility that we find the path to heaven. When faith becomes service, when authority becomes love, when burdens are shared — then the Gospel truly comes alive.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may become an offering of humble service, pleasing to God the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord,
these gifts we place before you.
Free us from empty ritual
and make our lives a living offering,
so that what we celebrate at this altar
may be lived out in works of justice, mercy, and love.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you call your people not to outward show
but to hearts made new in humility and truth.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you revealed the path of service,
the wisdom of the cross,
and the greatness of self-giving love.
He did not seek honour,
but emptied himself for our sake,
so that, freed from pride and fear,
we might live as brothers and sisters,
serving one another in charity.
And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

At the command of the one Teacher
who lifts our burdens
and calls us brothers and sisters,
we dare to pray:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from pride and empty religion.
Free us from the burdens we place on one another,
and grant us peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may always be free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
For the kingdom...

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us that true greatness is found in service
and true peace in humility.
Look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her unity and peace
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, who humbled himself to serve
and to carry our burdens.
Blessed are those called to share in his table,
where the last are made first,
the servant is exalted,
and all who come with humble hearts are fed and
strengthened to serve one another.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the Lord who knelt to serve,
may his presence within us
make us lighter for others to carry,
gentler in judgment, and generous in love.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Nourished by this sacrament, O Lord,
renew our hearts and strengthen our steps.
May what we have received in faith
become visible in our daily lives,
so that, freed from empty appearances,
we may walk humbly with you.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the God who sees the heart
bless you and free you from all false pride.
May Christ, the humble Servant,
teach you to lift the burdens of others.

May the Holy Spirit
shape your life into a gift of loving service.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
glorifying the Lord by your life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faith that serves becomes light.
Humility is not the loss of dignity —
it is the path that leads us home.

Wednesday of the 2nd Week of Lent – 04 March 2026

Jer 18:18–20; Mt 20:17–28

INTRODUCTION

We have followed Jesus' invitation and have come together for this celebration. Here we want to listen attentively to what he wishes to say to us — in his word proclaimed in Sacred Scripture, in the breaking of the bread, in our shared prayer and singing. Let us ask that our hearts and minds, our souls and our senses, may be open to the presence of God.

As Jesus continues his journey toward Jerusalem, the shadow of the cross begins to fall more clearly across the road ahead. For the first time on a weekday in this Lenten season, he speaks plainly about his suffering, his death, and his resurrection. Yet the moment has not yet fully arrived. Jesus is preparing his disciples, even though they are not ready to understand. Their hearts are still occupied with very human concerns — success, recognition, and position.

A teacher once led his students up a steep mountain path. As they walked, they began arguing about who would reach the top first and who deserved the best place. The teacher stopped, knelt down, and quietly washed the dust from their feet. Only then did he say, *“If you want to reach the summit, you must first learn how to kneel.”*

Is it any different for us? Human and all-too-human desires can still cloud our vision and distract us from what truly matters. Lent calls us to walk more closely with Jesus, to let go of our need for status and control, and to rediscover the greatness of humble service. As we begin this Eucharist, let us place ourselves honestly before the Lord, ready to be taught again how to follow him.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brothers and sisters,
the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life for many.

Let us acknowledge before God the ways we resist that path and ask for the mercy that restores us.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Lord our God,
you sent your Son to serve and not to dominate,
to give his life in love and not to grasp at power.
Forgive us when we seek honour rather than humility,
recognition rather than service,
our own way rather than the way of the cross.

Create in us a servant's heart,
and lead us back to the path of life,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Lord our God,
keep your Church ready and willing to do what is good.
Encourage us in this life with your protection
and lead us toward the eternal goods you promise.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A teacher once led his students up a steep mountain path. As they walked, the students began arguing about who would reach the top first and who deserved the best place. The teacher stopped, knelt down, and quietly washed the dust from their feet. Only then did he say, "If you want to reach the summit, you must first learn how to kneel."

That image opens up today's readings. As Jesus journeys toward Jerusalem, he speaks again about his suffering, death, and resurrection. Yet the disciples do not hear him. Their thoughts are fixed on greatness, status, and power. James and John, through their mother, ask for the best seats in the kingdom, and the others react with jealousy. All of them are thinking in worldly terms.

Jesus gently but firmly redirects them. True greatness, he says, is not about ruling but about serving. The Son of Man has come not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. This is the legacy he offers them — and us.

The first reading from Jeremiah shows the cost of such faithfulness. Jeremiah asks the haunting question: “*Should evil be returned for good?*” He speaks God’s word out of love for his people, yet they plot against him. Justice, especially when it calls for conversion, often meets resistance. Peace is founded on justice, but justice can make people uncomfortable.

Jesus stands fully in this prophetic tradition. He lives God’s justice and love without compromise, and for that he is crucified. Evil is returned for good. Yet the Gospel insists this is not the end. The resurrection proclaims that good, in the end, will always have the final word.

The disciples struggle to accept this. They imagine a kingdom of honour and reward. Jesus instead asks, “Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?” To follow him means sharing his way of self-giving service, even when it leads to the cross. Throughout history, Christians have discovered that fidelity to Christ does not lead quickly to privilege, but it does lead to life.

We recognise ourselves in the disciples. We, too, can seek recognition rather than service. Lent invites us to keep learning, to keep moving away from that instinct and toward the way of Jesus — a journey we can make only with the help of the Spirit.

A nurse once worked among the wounded in a war zone. When asked why she stayed when it was so dangerous, she replied simply, “Because if I don’t, who will?” No honours followed, but many lives were saved.

That is the greatness Jesus speaks of today — the greatness of service. As we continue our Lenten journey, may we learn to kneel with Christ, trusting that in God’s kingdom, this is the path that leads to true life.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we place bread and wine upon this altar, let us also offer our lives — our desire to follow Christ more faithfully in humility, service, and love.

Let us pray that these gifts may shape us into servants of God’s kingdom.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
may these offerings we bring before you
be transformed into the sacrament of salvation.
Teach us, through this Eucharist,
to give ourselves as Christ gave himself —
freely, humbly, and in love —
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For through the saving fast of Lent
you call us back to the simplicity of the Gospel,
you teach us to overcome selfishness,
and lead us toward the freedom of loving service.
By walking with your Son on the road to Jerusalem,
we learn that true greatness

is found not in power but in self-giving love,
not in being served but in serving others.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with thrones and dominions,
and with all the hosts and powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: *Holy, Holy, Holy...*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

At the Saviour's command
and formed by the example of his self-giving love,
we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil.
Free us from the desire to dominate or to be honoured,
and give us the peace that comes from humble service.
As we wait in hope for the coming of your kingdom,
help us to walk faithfully in the way of your Son,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your disciples that greatness is found in serving others. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us peace — not the peace of power, but the peace born of justice, humility, and love. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for many. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

In receiving the Body of Christ, we receive the One who knelt to serve, who accepted the cup of suffering, and who trusted the Father completely. May this communion strengthen us to live the greatness of quiet faithfulness in our daily lives.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, you have nourished us with the bread of life. May this Eucharist transform our hearts, so that we may follow your Son not in the search for honour but in the joy of humble service. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May God the Father bless you and teach you the wisdom of humility. **Amen.** May Christ the Servant strengthen you to walk the way of self-giving love. **Amen.** May the Holy Spirit guide you in faithful service and quiet courage. **Amen.** And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

True greatness is not measured by the place we seek, but by the love we give.

Thursday of the 2nd Week of Lent – 05.03.2026

Jeremiah 17:5–10; Luke 16:19–31

INTRODUCTION

Trusting in our God, who knows our hearts and searches all our paths, we have gathered to meet him in his Word and in the Bread of Life. We come with our whole lives before him—our faith and our doubts, our generosity and our blind spots—confident that nothing in us is hidden from his loving gaze.

Most of us are familiar with a navigation system in a car. It usually guides us smoothly toward our destination. But when we take a wrong turn, or stubbornly continue down a road that leads nowhere, it does not abandon us. Calmly, sometimes firmly, it tells us to turn back and begin again. Lent is very much like that voice. It is not there to scold us, but to save us from dead ends and missed destinations.

The readings today invite us to look honestly at the direction of our trust and the focus of our attention. Whom do we rely on? Where do we place our security? And

whom do we fail to notice along the way? The Word of God gently challenges us to allow our hearts to be searched and our paths corrected, so that no one remains invisible at our gate.

As we begin this celebration, let us open ourselves to the Lord who searches us, corrects us, and leads us again on the way that leads to life.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brothers and sisters, the Lord sees not only our actions but the intentions of our hearts. Let us acknowledge before him the times we have trusted ourselves more than God and have passed by those in need.

Lord Jesus, you come close to those who are forgotten and ignored. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you call us to listen to the Word that leads to life. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you search our hearts and invite us to turn back to you. **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God of mercy,
who searches our hearts and knows our ways,
turn us back from paths that lead away from life,
open our eyes to those at our gate,
and forgive us our sins,
so that we may walk again in trust, compassion, and love.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Holy God,
you love innocence and restore it
to the sinner who returns to you with a repentant heart.
Turn our hearts toward you
and give us new zeal through your Holy Spirit,
so that we may remain firm in faith
and always be ready to do what is good.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A teacher once told the story of a man who walked the same street every day on his way to work. At the corner sat an elderly woman selling flowers. For years he passed her without seeing her. One morning, after a sleepless night, he stopped, bought a single flower, and listened as she spoke about her life. Later he said, “Nothing about my route changed—only my attention did.” That small moment changed how he walked that street forever.

The question of the rich and the poor, of who is seen and who is ignored, is as old as humanity. Jesus takes it up with unsettling clarity in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man is not condemned because he is wealthy, but because he refuses to listen—to the cry at his gate and to the Word of God spoken through Moses and the prophets. Lazarus asks for very little, just scraps, just enough to live a little longer. The rich man does nothing. His failure is not dramatic evil, but quiet indifference.

The first reading sharpens the point: “Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings and whose heart turns away from the Lord.” This is not a rejection of healthy human trust, which we all need to survive, but a warning against relying on ourselves, our comfort, or our closed world alone. When trust in God is lost, hearts grow cold, others become invisible, and a chasm opens—sometimes right at our own doorstep.

Jesus reminds us that signs and miracles will not save us if we refuse to listen. Even a resurrection will not convince someone who has trained themselves not to hear. What saves us is listening to God’s Word and allowing it to shape our way of life. That Word calls us to notice, to pay attention, and to do the little we can do. Often it is not the grand gesture that is asked of us, but the simple act that is well within our reach—a kindness, a sharing, a moment of presence. God, as the prophet Jeremiah says, repays each according to their way of life.

Let me end with another story. After a tragedy shook a community, a journalist asked a local volunteer why she

kept showing up day after day with meals and blankets. She replied, “I can’t fix everything, but I can stand at the gate and make sure someone is noticed.” That is the invitation of today’s Gospel: to trust God enough to let his Word open our eyes, to cross the small distances between us and others, and to do the little acts of love that make the gate a place of life rather than a place of silence.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Trusting not in ourselves but in the Lord who sees the heart, let us place before him the bread and wine, and with them our lives, asking that what we offer may be transformed for the good of others and the glory of God.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

God of compassion, receive these offerings
and, with them, the desire of our hearts
to live according to your Word. Free us from indifference,
teach us to notice those in need, and shape our lives into
gifts of love, so that this sacrifice may bear fruit
in works of justice and mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you search the human heart
and call us back when we stray from the way of life.
Through the words of the prophets
and the teaching of your Son,
you invite us to place our trust not in passing security
but in you alone, the source of life.

In this holy season of Lent,
you open our eyes to those at our gate,
you challenge our indifference,
and you teach us that true wealth
is found in compassion, listening, and mercy.

Therefore, with angels and archangels
and all the saints, we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending song:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

As children who place their trust not in themselves
but in a loving and faithful Father, let us pray with
confidence in the words Jesus has given us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil,
especially from hearts that grow cold
and ears that refuse to listen.
Grant peace in our days, that, helped by your mercy,
we may be free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you crossed every distance to bring us
life and peace. Look not on our indifference and fear,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who crosses every gate to meet us,
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

We have been fed with the Bread of Life.
The Lord we receive now sends us back into the world
with opened eyes and softened hearts.
May this communion help us notice those we once passed
by and trust God enough
to do the small acts of love that lead to life.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of mercy, you have strengthened us with this
sacrament of life. Let what we have received
bear fruit in attentive hearts and generous hands,
so that, trusting in you alone,
we may become signs of your compassion
in a world longing to be noticed. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, who searches your heart and knows your ways,
turn your steps toward life and mercy. **Amen.**

May Christ, who stands at every gate in the face of the
poor and forgotten, open your eyes and soften your heart.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, who renews all things, give you
courage to trust, to listen, and to act in love. **Amen.**
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in the Lord,
and attentive to those who need your care.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Nothing about our path may change this week—
but our attention can.
Trust in God opens our eyes
and turns every gate into a place where life can begin.

Friday of the 2nd Week of Lent – 06.03.2026

Gen 37:3–4, 12–13, 17–28; Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

INTRODUCTION

A village once had a bell with a long crack running through it. Its sound was uneven, even jarring. Many villagers wanted it replaced with a perfect bell. But the old bell ringer refused. “Listen carefully,” he said. “That broken sound carries farther than any perfect bell.” And indeed, it could be heard across fields, valleys, and even into the forest—reaching places no perfect bell could. What seemed flawed became the very instrument that called people together. Perhaps you have experienced something similar in your own life. A plan you cherished failed. A relationship broke. A door you thought was closing seemed to leave only emptiness. Yet, over time, you realized that what you once rejected became the very path to growth, understanding, or even joy.

Today’s readings invite us to reflect on this same paradox of God’s wisdom. Joseph is rejected and betrayed by his brothers, yet he becomes the instrument through which

many are saved. The vineyard son is killed by the tenants, yet he becomes the cornerstone of God’s Kingdom.

Human jealousy, fear, and violence cannot frustrate God’s plan.

As we gather today, we are called to consider: how do we respond to God’s invitations—especially when they challenge us, when they come in unexpected or uncomfortable ways, or when they seem to demand sacrifice? Lent is a time to pause and examine our hearts, to notice where we resist God’s strange wisdom, and to trust that even the cracks in our lives can bear fruit when we place them in God’s hands.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Let us pause and examine our hearts before the Lord who never gives up on his vineyard.

Lord Jesus, you were rejected by your own, yet you remained faithful to the Father’s will. *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ Jesus, you call us to bear fruit even when the path leads through suffering. *Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you are the cornerstone we have often overlooked. *Lord, have mercy.*

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the God of mercy,
who brings life out of rejection and hope out of the cross,
forgive us our sins, soften our resistant hearts,
and restore us as faithful workers in his vineyard.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you cleanse and renew your people
as they walk the path of repentance.
Free us from envy, fear, and hardness of heart,
that we may welcome your Son
and bear fruit for your Kingdom.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

A teacher once told the story of a cracked bell in an old village church. Because of the crack, its sound was strange and uneven. People wanted it replaced, but the bell ringer insisted on keeping it. “Listen carefully,” he said. “That broken sound carries farther than any perfect bell.” And it did. What seemed useless became the very thing that called people together.

That is how God often works. God writes straight with crooked lines, and the wisdom that saves us does not look like human wisdom at all. Scripture today places before us two hard stories—Joseph rejected by his brothers, and the son of the vineyard owner killed by the tenants. Both are stories of envy, rejection, and violence. Yet both become stories of salvation.

Joseph is betrayed because he is loved. Jealousy drives his brothers to throw him into a pit and sell him like a slave. From every human point of view, his life is ruined. Yet that very rejection becomes the path by which God saves many. The brother who was cast aside becomes the one

who feeds his family in famine. The stone rejected by the builders becomes the cornerstone.

Jesus tells a parable even more brutal. The tenants refuse to give the fruits of the vineyard. They abuse authority, silence the messengers, and finally kill the son. Jesus is speaking about himself, and his listeners understand it. Still, they do not repent. Here we glimpse the foolishness of the cross: through the death of one, God brings life to all. What looks like total failure becomes the foundation of hope. Christ crucified, rejected and cast out, is raised up as the cornerstone in whom we can place our trust.

This is not just about Joseph or about Jesus long ago. It is about us. Envy can still drive our actions. Fear can still make us reject the very people or situations through which God wants to work. Lent asks us to look honestly at where we resist God's strange wisdom. Unlike the wicked tenants, we are invited not to cast the Son out of our lives, but to follow him, trusting that even difficult paths can bear fruit. The rest is God's work. He does not give up on the

vineyard, and he does not give up on us.

I once heard of a woman who was dismissed from her job in a way that left her humiliated and angry. For a long time she saw only loss. Years later she said, "That rejection forced me onto a path I never would have chosen—but it became the place where I discovered who I really was." What she had rejected as disaster became a turning point of grace.

That is the promise held out to us today. The rejected stone can become the keystone. The cracked bell can still call people home. If we trust the wisdom of God, even the cross can become the doorway to life.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, sisters and brothers,
that our offering—like our lives—
may be entrusted into God's hands,
so that what seems weak or broken
may bear fruit for the Kingdom.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts
and receive also our wounded faith and fragile hopes.
Transform them by your grace,
so that, united with the sacrifice of your Son,
they may become a source of life for the world.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE: The Wisdom of the Cross

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your mysterious wisdom
you chose what the world rejects
to reveal the power of your love.
When your Son was cast out and put to death,
you raised him up as the cornerstone of salvation,
and from the wood of the cross
you brought forth the fruits of eternal life.
As we journey through Lent,

you call us to trust not in human success
but in the transforming power of your grace,
that, following your Son in humility and faith,
we may share in his resurrection.
And so, with angels and saints,
with all who have trusted in your saving work,
we proclaim your glory, as we sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

With trust in the Father who brings life out of rejection
and never abandons his vineyard,
let us pray with confidence:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
especially from hardened hearts and jealous spirits.
Free us from the fear that resists your ways,
and grant us peace in our days,
that, supported by your mercy,
we may bear fruit in patience and hope,
as we await the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you were rejected and cast out,
yet from your cross you spoke peace.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and grant her unity and peace,
according to your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, the Son who was rejected
and became the cornerstone of our salvation.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

In this Eucharist,
the rejected stone has been placed into our hands.
The broken one has become our strength.
As we leave this table,
may we trust that God is still at work—
even in what feels cracked, fragile, or unfinished.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of mercy, you have nourished us with the Body and
Blood of your Son. Strengthen us to walk the way of trust,
that our lives may bear fruit even through struggle and
surrender. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May God, who brings life out of rejection,
bless you and keep you.
May Christ, the cornerstone once cast aside,
strengthen your faith and hope.
May the Holy Spirit teach you to trust God's wisdom
even when the path leads through the cross.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to bear fruit in patience and trust.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

What you are tempted to reject today
may be the very place where God is shaping new life.

Saturday of the 2nd Week of Lent – 07 March 2026

Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes, especially in the days leading to Easter, we notice two kinds of attitudes among people. Some are weighed down by sorrow over their faults, feeling unworthy of God's mercy. Others seem confident they need no conversion, believing their lives are already in order. Which attitude is right?

A mother once shared a story that helps us understand today's Gospel. Her son had left home years before, angry and without a word of goodbye. Late at night, she would stand at the front gate, imagining footsteps on the road, hoping for his return. One evening, she finally heard those steps. She opened the gate and held him. The past was not erased, but a new beginning had come.

Jesus' parable of the prodigal son tells us the same truth. Turning back to God does not require perfection or heroic deeds; it begins with the smallest step, even from need or failure. God meets us where we are, runs to embrace us,

and invites us to share in the joy of His house. Today, let us open our hearts to that mercy, trusting that He is always ready to welcome us home.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way to the Father.

Lord, have mercy.

You are the companion of your disciples.

Christ, have mercy.

You are life and light for our journey through life.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the Father of mercy,
who watches the road for our return
and runs out to meet us in love,
forgive us our sins,
heal what is wounded within us,
and lead us back into the joy of his house. Amen.

COLLECT

Gracious God, through the working of your grace you already give us on this earth the beginning of eternal life. Bring to completion what you have begun in us, and lead us to that light in which you yourself dwell. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son... Amen.

HOMILY

A mother once told the story of standing at the front gate late at night, long after the lights in the house were turned off. Her son had left home angry years before. No goodbye, no address, no phone number. Every so often she would still go to that gate, especially when things were quiet, imagining footsteps on the road. Parents know that mix of love, fear, anger, and helpless hope. When we hear today's Gospel, many of those feelings rise immediately in our hearts.

Jesus tells a story that families then and now understand all too well. A son takes what he is given, walks away, and everything falls apart. His downfall is total: hunger, shame,

and work that strips him of dignity. Yet even then, his first step home is not heroic repentance but simple need—he is starving. Still, that fragile turning back is enough. The surprise of the parable is not the son's return, but the father's response. He runs, embraces, and kisses him before any explanation is finished. In that moment, the son's defences collapse. Mercy awakens true repentance. He discovers that his failure does not have the last word; love does.

The older son stands nearby, dutiful yet distant. He has stayed, obeyed, worked—but his heart has hardened. Duty without gratitude has turned into resentment. The father goes out to him too, speaking gently, inviting him in. This is the real point of the parable: God's love is not earned by rebellion or by obedience. It is given freely to both. God is not a harsh judge waiting to say, "I told you so," nor a soft figure who ignores truth. He knows the hearts of both sons and meets each where they are, always with the same goal—life in the Father's house.

During Lent we hear the call to conversion, and this story shows us what it looks like. Sometimes conversion begins in the mud, sometimes in self-righteous anger. What matters is turning toward home. Even detours, even failures, do not disqualify us. God's love is greater, and it is already moving toward us.

The mother at the gate tells the end of her story quietly. One evening, she did hear footsteps. Her son stood there, thinner, older, unsure of his welcome. She did not ask for explanations. She opened the gate and held him. That night did not erase the past, but it gave them a future. Jesus tells us today: this is what God is like. The question left open is not about the Father—but about us. Will we let ourselves be found, and will we join the feast?

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Let us place on the altar not only bread and wine, but also our desire to return to God, trusting that he receives every sincere step home. Pray that this sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Merciful Father,
as we place these gifts of bread and wine upon your altar,
we also offer you our restless hearts,
our failures and our faithfulness, our longing to return to
you and our struggle to remain close.

Receive us as you received the returning son:
not with reproach, but with compassion.

May this sacrifice reconcile what is divided within us,
soften hearts hardened by resentment or fear,
and restore us to the joy of living in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For in your boundless mercy
you never cease to call your children home.
When we wander far from you,

you do not turn away in anger, but wait with patient love,
watching the road and longing for our return.

In your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed a love
that runs out to meet the lost, restores dignity to the
broken, and invites both the repentant and the resentful
to share the joy of your house.

Through him, failure does not have the final word,
and obedience is transformed into gratitude and joy.

As we journey through this holy season of Lent,
you teach us that true conversion
is not a matter of perfection,
but of turning our hearts toward you
and trusting in your mercy.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

As sons and daughters welcomed by the Father,
and confident of his mercy that restores us,
let us pray with trust the prayer
that Jesus himself has taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil,
especially from hearts closed by fear or resentment.
Grant us peace in our days,
so that, sustained by your mercy,
we may be freed from sin
and live as reconciled sons and daughters,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you reconcile those who are far off
and draw into one household
those divided by sin and pride.

Look not on our failures,
but on your mercy at work in your Church,
and grant us the peace
that comes from being welcomed home. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold Jesus Christ,
the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world
and gathers the lost into the joy of the Father's house.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

We have all heard the story of the prodigal son. In
receiving this Eucharist, let us remember that God's mercy
meets us before we even speak, embraces us before we
act, and calls us to joy before we feel worthy. Take this
grace to your heart today and walk forward in hope,
bringing others to the table of God's love.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate Father,
you have nourished us at your table
with the Body and Blood of your Son,
signs of the love that seeks us
even before we can speak our confession.

Strengthen in us the grace we have received,
so that, healed by your mercy,
we may rise and continue the journey home.
Free us from resentment that keeps us outside the feast,
and make us witnesses of your compassion,
ready to open the gate for others
as you have opened it for us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of mercy,
who runs out to meet all who turn toward him,
free you from fear and resentment,
clothe you with forgiveness,
and lead you always into the joy of his house.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God is always running toward us, even when we feel far from home. Today, let us take that first small step toward Him, trusting that every detour, failure, or hesitation can become part of our joyful return.