

Be our light, O Lord!

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Psalm 116:10, 15-19

Romans 8:31b-34

Mark 9:2-10

The Lord God put Abraham to the test. "Take your son and offer him as a holocaust." It is the Lord's messenger who commands Abraham to stop at the last minute and makes available a ram caught in the thicket. Abraham acts in obedience and is blessed abundantly and his descendants will be as numerous as the grains of sand along the seashore. A secondary connection with this story relates to the sacrifice of children, something that was commonly practiced among Israel's neighbors; now it is repudiated by Abraham's example.

The psalmist prayer shows faith even when greatly afflicted and notes that seeing the death of the faithful ones is grievous to the Lord. The psalmist is the Lord's servant, offering a sacrifice of thanksgiving and he will pay his vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people and will continually call upon the Lord's name.

Paul reminds the brothers and sisters in faith that if God is for them who can be against them? God did not even spare his own Son who was handed over for us all. Christ Jesus died, was raised, and sits at God's right hand, and intercedes for us. The important message here is that God is for us, we are really secure in the hands of the Lord, and we should be absolutely certain about that!



Peter, James, and John are taken up to a high mountain by Jesus who is transfigured into glorious light before them. Elijah and Moses appear conversing with Jesus and a voice speaks from an overshadowing cloud: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!" The apostles are awe-struck with the happening and are charged not to reveal this encounter until after the resurrection, a concept they were not yet understanding.

**The Father spoke from the cloud,
Listen to my Son;
The Holy Spirit graces us to be receptive.**

The Gospel envisions Jesus as the revelation of the Father. Everything Jesus did and said served the purpose of revealing this. On the mountain the apostles encountered two sources of brightness; one was the sun which they were used to, the other was the transfigured Jesus, which most likely terrified them. The appearance of Elijah and Moses signify that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets and from that point on the apostles were to concentrate on listening to Jesus. It is no less a responsibility for us to also listen to the prompting of the Spirit.

Lord Jesus

You give glory to the Father in your Transfiguration;
You came forth as Light from Light;
You impart light and truth by your divine words;
You send the Holy Spirit to bring us light;
You reveal your brightness to those trapped in darkness;
You teach your people to walk in your light.

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