

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis
(22:1-2,9-13,15-18)

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 115:10, 15-19.

R. Ps.114:9)

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
8:31-34)

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (Mt 17:5)

R. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

R. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
(9:2-10)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in the presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round,

they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.