

The Living Word

Second Sunday of Lent, Year C

16 March 2025

First Reading Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great
River.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' (R.)
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. (R.)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's
goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading Phil 3:17 – 4:1 or Phil 3:20 – 4:1 (shorter form)

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice
is heard:**

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Lk 9:28-36

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person?

What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief.

Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' body was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory.

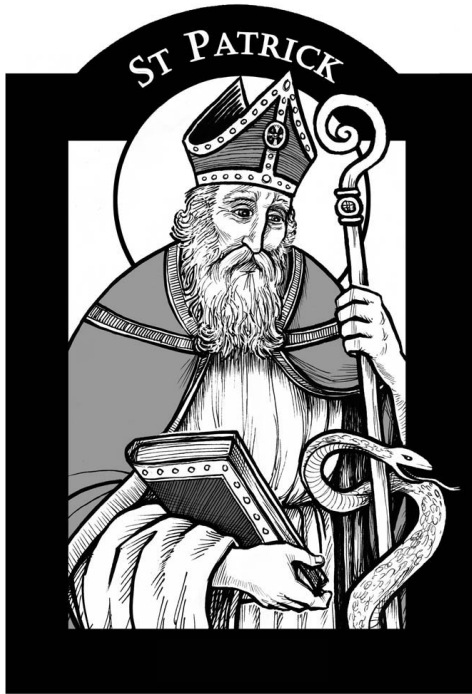
That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, *bodysoul*. That is our *ultimate* destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dazzling bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

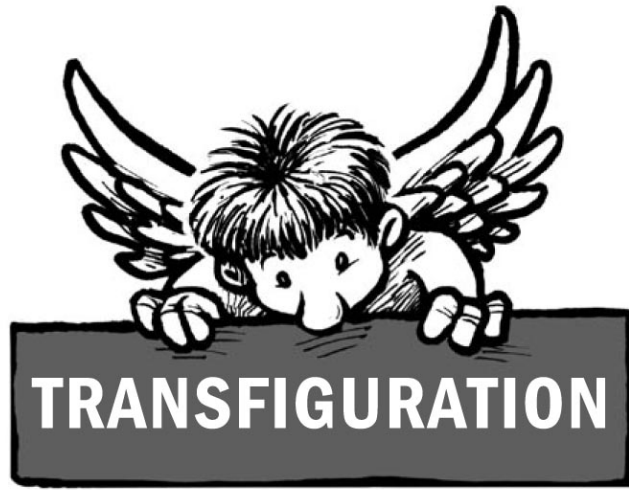
We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.

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St Patrick was born in Britain c.385 and as a young man was captured by Irish pirates and sold into slavery. After six years in Ireland he escaped, returned to his family and trained for the priesthood in Gaul. In c.435 he returned to Ireland as a missionary bishop. Through his work, Christianity flourished and the church became organised. Although not extensively learned, St Patrick was known for his sincerity and pastoral care, and was largely concerned with abolishing paganism and idolatry and encouraged monasticism. There are many legends about Ireland's most beloved saint, including his use of the shamrock for explaining the trinity, and his banishing of all snakes from Ireland.



How many words can you make from the letters in the word TRANSFIGURATION?

Crossword

Across

- 1: to be selected
- 2: Jesus and the disciples heard God's voice coming from this
- 5: bright with light
- 6: places that protect you from wind and rain
- 8: the high place where Jesus took his disciples to pray
- 10: afraid, scared
- 11: this man wanted to build three shelters

Down

- 1: things we wear
- 3: Mother is to daughter, as father is to ____
- 4: he appeared with Elijah and spoke to Jesus
- 7: "They appeared in _____ glory"
- 9: Peter wanted to build this many shelters

