

Year C

Second Sunday of Lent

Jesus shines like the sun

INTRODUCTION

Today we hear how Jesus allowed his closest friends to glimpse the power and brilliance of God's glory.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say this prayer:

As children of the light, we will never hide in the darkness.

SORRY

Listen to the words of St. Paul, who tells us:

Make a fresh start and change your heart. Tell the truth and do not let your anger spoil your friendship with others and with God. Speak words of kindness and act with love and goodness towards each other. Above all, be ready to forgive others as God forgives you.

(Ephesians 4:22–32)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus said: "Follow me and love each other, and you will be a sign for all to see that you are children of my love."

GOSPEL (LUKE 9:28–36)

One day Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to come and pray with him. He led them to the top of a steep mountain, where it was peaceful and quiet, and they could be alone.

Jesus began to pray to his heavenly father when suddenly he appeared to change! His face and clothes shone with a brilliant light, as dazzling as the rays of the sun. Then the disciples saw Moses and Elijah on either side of Jesus talking to him. Peter jumped up with excitement and said, "Lord, this is wonderful! I could make three shelters, one for each of you!"

At that moment, a cloud streaming with light appeared above them, and a voice said, "This is my son, whom I love very much. Listen to what he says." The disciples were so terrified that they threw themselves to the ground and hid their faces. Then Jesus said gently, "Get up my friends;

do not be afraid." When they looked up, Jesus was standing alone.

DISCUSSION

What did Peter, James, and John see on the mountaintop that day? Jesus was transfigured! This means his appearance changed as his face and clothes shone like the sun.

If the sun shines in our eyes, we are dazzled by its brightness and the strength of its light. The light shining from Jesus was as bright as the sun. These rays of light were shafts of God's glory and a glimpse of his power and might.

If there was no light, the world would be a cold and frightening place, full of darkness and gloom. (Encourage the children to share their thoughts and ideas. Have they ever lost electricity in their house? What happened?)

By day, the natural light of the sun warms the earth and makes things grow. At night, we use artificial light so that we can see and find our way in the darkness.

Just as light chases away the darkness so that we can see, the light shining out from Jesus that day made the disciples *see* that he was, indeed, the son of God. Their lives had been touched by the brilliance of God's power and love, and they were filled with the light of faith.

ACTIVITY

Copy the illustration onto several pieces of thin cardboard, then cut out several large candle shapes. Using colored squares of paper, ask the children to glue these onto the candles to make mosaic patterns. The candles can then be hung from a mobile with the caption "Jesus fills our lives with light."

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, fill me with the light
of your love and faith.

Make me shine in the darkness
and touch the lives of others
with the light of your goodness.

JESUS FILLS OUR LIVES WITH LIGHT.

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