

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Lent

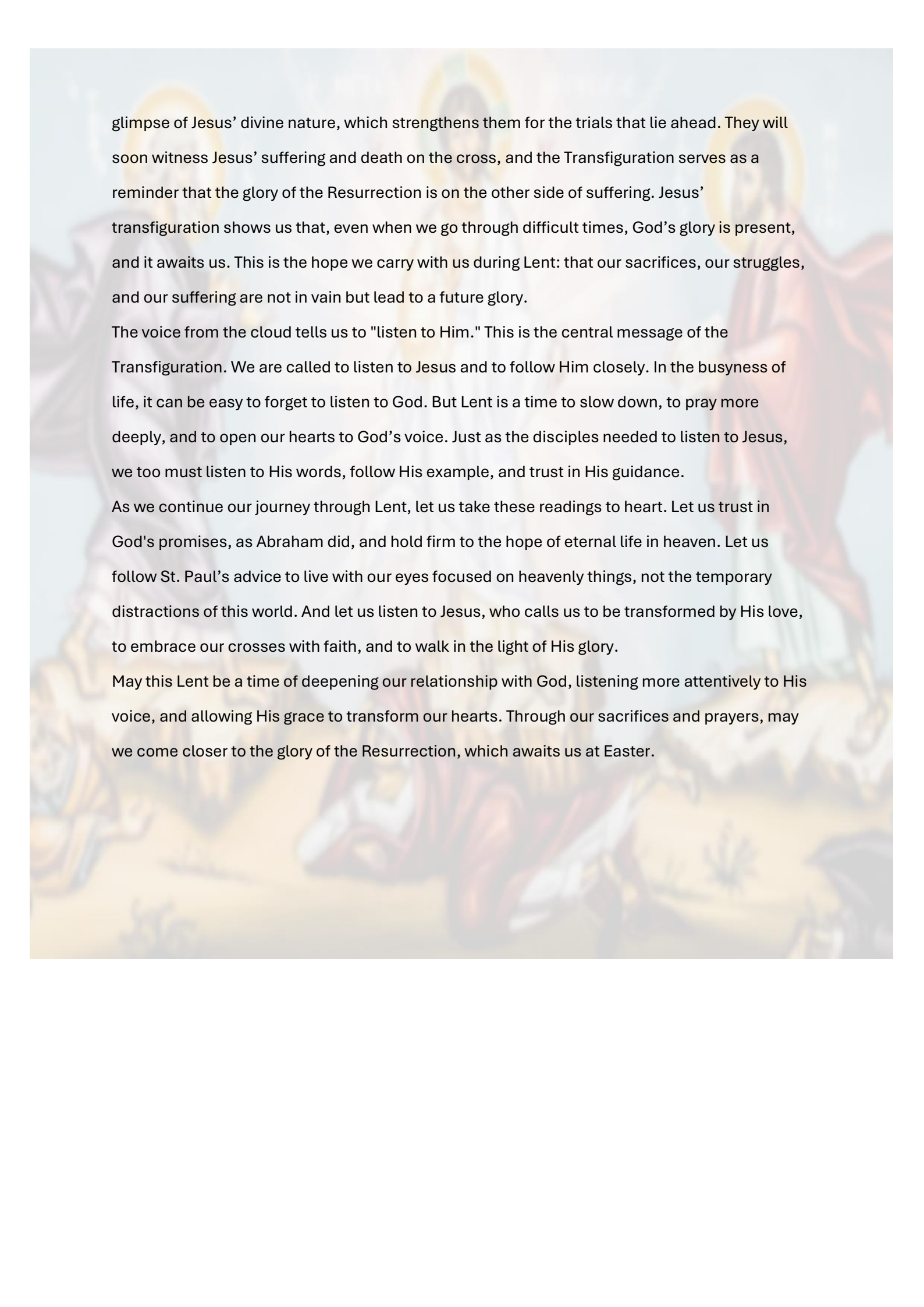
On this Second Sunday of Lent, the Church presents us with readings that remind us of God's promises, the importance of listening to Him, and the transformation that comes through faith. In the first reading from the Book of Genesis (15:5-12, 17-18), we hear about God's covenant with Abraham. God promises Abraham that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars. But at this moment, Abraham is old, and he has no children. He could easily have doubted God's word, but instead, he trusts in the promise that God gives him. What an incredible act of faith! God, in His love and faithfulness, seals this promise with a covenant, a sacred bond that shows us that God will always be true to His word, even when circumstances seem impossible. This is a powerful reminder for us, especially during this season of Lent. There are times in our own lives when we may feel lost or uncertain. Perhaps we experience struggles that make us question God's promises. But today's reading calls us to trust in God's faithfulness, just as Abraham did. Lent is a time for us to renew our trust in God, to turn to Him in prayer, and to believe that His promises will always be fulfilled.

In the second reading, St. Paul writes to the Philippians (3:17-4:1), urging them to follow his example and the example of others who live according to the Gospel. He speaks about how our true citizenship is in heaven, not in the things of this world. This is an important message, especially in our fast-paced, materialistic society. We are constantly bombarded with messages that tell us to focus on success, wealth, and status. But St. Paul reminds us that our ultimate goal is not worldly success, but the eternal life we have in Christ.

Lent is a time to examine where we are putting our priorities. Are we focusing too much on the fleeting things of this world, or are we striving to live in a way that reflects our true citizenship in heaven? By turning our hearts and minds to God, especially during this holy season, we are reminded that our true hope lies not in the temporary things of this world, but in the eternal joy of heaven.

Finally, in the Gospel reading (Luke 9:28-36), we encounter the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain, where He is transfigured before their eyes. His face becomes radiant, and His clothes become dazzling white. Then, Moses and Elijah appear with Him, speaking about His upcoming suffering in Jerusalem. And from the cloud, a voice says, "This is my Son, the Chosen One; listen to Him."

The Transfiguration is a moment of incredible glory and revelation. The disciples are given a



glimpse of Jesus' divine nature, which strengthens them for the trials that lie ahead. They will soon witness Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, and the Transfiguration serves as a reminder that the glory of the Resurrection is on the other side of suffering. Jesus' transfiguration shows us that, even when we go through difficult times, God's glory is present, and it awaits us. This is the hope we carry with us during Lent: that our sacrifices, our struggles, and our suffering are not in vain but lead to a future glory.

The voice from the cloud tells us to "listen to Him." This is the central message of the Transfiguration. We are called to listen to Jesus and to follow Him closely. In the busyness of life, it can be easy to forget to listen to God. But Lent is a time to slow down, to pray more deeply, and to open our hearts to God's voice. Just as the disciples needed to listen to Jesus, we too must listen to His words, follow His example, and trust in His guidance.

As we continue our journey through Lent, let us take these readings to heart. Let us trust in God's promises, as Abraham did, and hold firm to the hope of eternal life in heaven. Let us follow St. Paul's advice to live with our eyes focused on heavenly things, not the temporary distractions of this world. And let us listen to Jesus, who calls us to be transformed by His love, to embrace our crosses with faith, and to walk in the light of His glory.

May this Lent be a time of deepening our relationship with God, listening more attentively to His voice, and allowing His grace to transform our hearts. Through our sacrifices and prayers, may we come closer to the glory of the Resurrection, which awaits us at Easter.