

Sunday's

READINGS

Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18
 Philippians 3:17–4:1
 Luke 9:28b–36

Scan the code to read
 today's readings. ➔


 Opening
 PRAYER

We ask, Holy Spirit, that you help us to stand firm in our faith. Clear away any obstacle that might make us stumble. Amen.


 Thoughts for
 REFLECTION

Imagine if your passport said, "Country of origin: Kingdom of God." How do you live as an American while being a citizen of the Kingdom of God?

Is it a challenge to make your faith your number one priority? Why?

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What You NEED to KNOW

Scripture Background

Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18

In this passage from Genesis, we are given a glimpse into the sacred covenant that God made with Abraham, whose name here is the original *Abram*. God will eventually change Abram's name to "Abraham." Prior to this account, God called Abraham to move from his own land to Caanan, a foreign land. God promised to make Abraham the father of a great nation. Abraham was old and had no children. Chapter 15 begins with Abraham questioning God about his lack of children. God replies by asking him to look at the stars of the sky and see them as a symbol of all his descendants. To assure Abraham of his commitment, God asks for the animals to be split in two. This was a common practice in binding people in a promise. This was a blood sacrifice in which both parties would walk through the blood of the animals. The fire that is an image of God moves through the path to give Abraham a sign of God's commitment to him and his people.

Philippians 3:17–4:1

Paul addresses the Philippians as a teacher. Contrary to the adage we may have heard, "Do as I say,

not as I do," Paul is saying, "Do as I do." But he advises the disciples to imitate not just his example, but that of all who have become followers of Christ. Do not seek the things that will not satisfy you. You are citizens of God's Kingdom. While we wait for Jesus to return and bring about the fullness of God's plan, live as if it is already here.

Luke 9:28b–36

The account of the Transfiguration appears in Mark, Matthew, and Luke's Gospels. Luke gives attention to the conversation between Elijah and Moses. In Verse 30, we read that the two men spoke of Jesus' departure, which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. We know by this point in the Gospel that Jesus has begun speaking about his suffering and Death. The response by the disciples is disbelief. That was not the ending of what they had been taught about the Messiah. They miss the message again as they are asleep. They awaken at the end just in time to see the last moments of the vision. Peter, as we now expect, responds in an inappropriate way. He suggests to Jesus that they prepare three tents, as if God or this experience could be captured.



Points to Ponder

Patience Is Indeed a Virtue

With all the talk of kingdoms in the Scripture today, how do we apply the Word to our personal spiritual journey? Peter may lead us to the questions we need to ask ourselves. The Gospel today tells us about Peter that “he did not know what he was saying.” Imagine that. The man who would become the leader of the early Church once again is baffled. It seems that Peter keeps missing the point. We should take great comfort in recognizing that Peter is given to us as a model of faith. He is proof positive that faith is a lifelong journey. Through him we know that God has unlimited patience with us, as long as we keep trying. Remembering that faith is a relationship, we can look at the mutual patience needed in the relationships of love between spouses, parents, and children, and among friends and family.

- What are some other times in Scripture when Peter misunderstood Jesus’ teaching?
- What are some ways you work at being patient?



Lord Jesus, you are truly present. Amen!



In the Eucharist, the sacrifice of Christ is made present, and the sacrifice of Christ is the fullest expression of the love of the Father and the Son.

—Bishop Robert Barron

Strengthen belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Scan here for Pflaum Eucharist resources.



Connecting GOSPEL

and CHURCH TEACHING

The Struggle For Land

The words of Genesis 15:7 have been a challenge since these words were written: “I am the Lord, who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.” Over the centuries, conflicts have arisen over that land. But to whom is God speaking? Strictly to Abraham? To Abraham and his immediate descendants? Or to all the descendants of Abraham and Isaac across the generations? Of course, before Christ, those descendants would have primarily consisted of Jewish people, though certainly one can reasonably imagine that not all the people who

inhabited and cultivated the land were, in fact, Jewish. Things become more complicated when we consider that Christ himself and many of the first Christians were Jewish. Which of Abraham’s descendants did God intend the land for—only those who came before Christ and their descendants? Jews, Christians, and Muslims, three Abrahamic faiths, have a deep spiritual attachment to the Holy Land. Surely, the God of Abraham, is benevolent to all his children and desires justice and dignity for all his people.

➔ To learn more, refer to CCC, 156–175 or go to Booklet 4, Session 4 in *Growing Faith*.



Closing PRAYER

How often when I pray for patience, Lord, do I not remember your time is not our time? Help me to live fully in the present moment. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Scan here for parent resources.



Question of the Week

How can you listen to Jesus? What might he say to you?



Family Prayer

Open our ears and hearts to better hear you, Lord. Amen.