

Sunday March 6, 2022
Second Sunday of Lent
Parishioner Reflection
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We Will be Created Anew

The readings for the Second Sunday of Lent begin with the covenant between God and Abraham. Among the many promises God makes to Abraham, if he keeps faith with the Lord, is the land. The land is a very tangible thing. Abraham can see it, graze his herd of sheep and goats on it, and while living within the confines of his land, nurture his family and support the growth of his tribe. The promise is very tangible, very real and can be passed on from generation to generation as a legacy. Part of God's promise to our father in faith was that all of Abraham's descendants would inherit the land.

We, too, live in a covenant with God through Christ by virtue of our baptism. We are descendants of Abraham in faith by living out our covenantal promises like he did. Saint Paul explains to us that to live out these promises with the help of the Spirit, we must be imitators of him and the saints. Each Lent, we usually resolve to introduce new practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to bring us closer to the ideals set by Saint Paul and all of the saints. Unfortunately, most of us become distracted the things of this world, our bellies and sensuality and our good resolutions fall by the wayside. Paul wants us and all Christians to keep their eyes fixed on our Lord Jesus Christ and the incredible promise that "He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself." (Philippians 3:21) This is meant to encourage us by providing a motivational goal for us to look toward. When all things are consummated, we will be like Him.

Luke's Gospel presents us with what Jesus' glorified body is like in his account of the transfiguration: "And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became a dazzling white." This transformation prefigures the incredible glory which Christ's resurrected body displayed when he rose from the dead. Through our baptism we were buried with Christ and by dying to self through our Lenten practices, we look toward the hope of our own resurrection into the new life we have been promised with Christ in heaven.

All of these promises should give us hope and strengthen our faith. But it is not just about promises, it is about the profound belief that God who has begun the work in us wants to bring this lovely work to fulfillment. It is not simply a glorified

body because, like the land, it is the tangible part of ourselves. Our destiny is one of internal transformation as well as external. The practices of lent are meant to shed a light on the areas where we need to grow. And in finding out these faults and weaknesses, we turn to Him, the Christ who loves us with tremendous tenderness, to ask for the graces needed to begin the work of transforming our brokenness into wholeness. May our Lenten practices deepen our relationship with Jesus and the communities we touch.