

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Second Sunday of Lent, Year A
1 March 2026
Matthew 17:1-9

Catechist Background

Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the two major sections of the Hebrew Scriptures. They each had a forty-day period marking the beginning of their ministries. In today's Gospel reading Peter, James and John saw Jesus be 'transfigured' and meet Moses and Elijah. Chronologically, in the Scriptures, this reading comes after Jesus' announcement that he would suffer and die. We can thus see the Transfiguration as a preview of his Resurrection which was still to come (and our salvation): indeed, he told his disciples that they must follow in his ways. We might hope that the experience of witnessing the Transfiguration may have comforted these three disciples in the difficult times that were to follow.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need A4 pieces of paper with the letters 'E,' 'I,' 'L,' 'N,' 'S,' and 'T,' one printed on each piece of paper.

Remind the children that we are in the season of Lent and that Lent is a time to unclutter our lives so that we can listen to God more. Ask what they remember from last week's Gospel reading.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You come to us in light, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You bring us out of the shadows, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You send us to share your love, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

We Pray (1)

God, help us to listen to your word so that we may see your glory. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Remind the children that last week we heard about Jesus in being tested by the Devil. This week, we hear about a very different situation. It may help to tell the children that Moses and Elijah were two prophets from the Old Testament who were/are very important to the Jewish people.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- What would you think if while we were here, my clothes suddenly became all sparkly and two glowing people from the Bible were here with us?
- In today's Gospel reading what did the voice from the cloud say? (This is my beloved son. Listen to him)
- Whose voice was it? (God)
- Do we listen to Jesus? When, where and how?
- Why do you think Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone about what they had seen? (maybe so that they would not jump to conclusions but have time to consider it themselves).
[Explain that the disciples did not fully understand this until after Jesus' death and Resurrection.]

Response

- Ask for six volunteers. Give them each one of the letters to hold up (in a scrambled order);
- Ask the other children to unscramble the letters into a word. [*They should be able to make both the word 'LISTEN' and also 'SILENT.'*]
- Ask: what helps us to listen to God?
- Remind them: Although sometimes we can tune in to God in the midst of busy-ness, sometimes it is helpful to have a bit of silence to help get rid of distractions.
 - *You could hold up the remote control that you used last week and discuss how you have or have not been able to shut off some distractions in the last week.*
- tell the children that you will all take a few moments now to try and listen to God in the silence of your hearts;
 - *Be mindful of their capacity for silent stillness, and make sure you end the quiet time before they get restless.*

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God, the Father, who has made all good things?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, to whom we try to listen in our lives?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us to listen to God?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: 'You were with the apostles long ago and you are with us now, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for the Church, that we will listen to you and follow Jesus' example in big and small ways. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the world, especially for places where Jesus walked where there is fighting today. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for anybody who is not able to see the wonderful things you have made. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for anybody we know who is sad, hurt or missing someone they love. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God, help us to listen and understand how we should show your love to the world. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

