

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent



Today's readings speak of personal crises. They can provide the means to comfort others in their troubles. Our personal experiences can serve the good of the community

In the first reading, Abram (to become Abraham) is completely frustrated. He complained to God of no son, yet God tells him he will be the forbearer of a nation too numerous to count. When Abraham opens himself in faith, God further promises that his descendants would possess a huge tract of land. He confirms his promises in what is called the "pact of the pieces." In this ancient ritual God swore his fidelity to his promises by subjecting himself to the fate of the sliced animals if he did not keep his promises. The story suggests that the hero's faith at the moment of crisis became the rich heritage of Israel. Abram's experience was for others.

In the Gospel, following the crisis of the announcement of his passion, death, and Resurrection, Jesus goes up the mountain for a period of intense prayer. In answer, we see the reassuring appearance of the Father and the Spirit. Both Moses and Elijah experienced crises and found their solution in God's presence. The transfiguration story tells that Jesus' experience of future pain and frustration was for the benefit of his audience. The crises were for others. The Father says, "Listen to him."