

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent
Cycle A

A friend once told me about the night before his daughter underwent a major surgery. He could hardly sleep – anxiety and fear keeping him awake. Yet earlier that evening, she had smiled at him and said, “Don’t worry, Dad. God is with us.” That simple moment, a brief glimpse of peace, carried him through the long, uncertain hours ahead.

Life often works this way. Before the trials, before the struggles, God gives us small moments of consolation –glimmers of light to strengthen us for what lies ahead. Today’s readings show us that this pattern is not new; even Jesus experienced it.

In the gospel narrative, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. There, “he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.” Then the Father’s voice thunders from the cloud: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” The disciples are awestruck and fall to the ground in fear. But notice what Jesus does: He touches them and says, “Rise, and do not be afraid.” The timing is significant. The Transfiguration comes right after Jesus predicts His Passion – the suffering He will endure in Jerusalem. Before the darkness, He is given light.

Before the Cross, He experiences glory. The vision is brief, yet it is enough to sustain Him for the trials ahead.

The First Reading echoes this pattern. Abram leaves home, uncertain of what awaits him, yet he trusts in God's promise of blessing. Even when the path seems unclear or difficult, God provides assurance along the way. The insight is clear: God often strengthens us for suffering by giving us moments of consolation – small experiences of His presence, brief glimpses of peace, or the radiance of grace that reminds us we are not alone.

God often gives us “mountaintop moments” to strengthen us for the valleys – where we are tempted to despair. His consolation renews our courage. His presence restores our hope. His grace reminds us we are never alone. They remind us of the ultimate truth: God's presence sustains us, even when the journey is difficult.

Lent invites us to pay attention to these moments. Treasure them. Let them speak to your heart. Allow them to strengthen you for the trials you face. They are not distractions; they are gifts, preparing your heart to bear suffering with hope, faithfulness, and courage.

This Lent, watch for the brief flashes of glory God gives you. Because these are His way of saying, “I am with you. You are not alone.” And let them strengthen you for the trials that will come.

Step forward into your daily challenges with confidence, carrying these consolations in your heart. Like Jesus on the mountain, allow the brief experience of God's glory to prepare you for the journey ahead.

God gives us light before darkness, small moments of grace to strengthen us for the pain and suffering ahead.