

## Moving towards Lent

### Notes on the Bible readings

- Jesus climbs up a mountain to pray with his trusted friends Peter, John and James, then an extraordinary scene unfolds as he meets Moses and the prophet Elijah. The sleepy disciples watch in wonder as two pillars of the Jewish faith converse with Jesus about his 'departure' (v.31). The Greek word is 'exodus' which was used to signify death. Moses and Elijah were perhaps giving Jesus a glimpse of the glory that awaited him after his death.
- Clouds are often biblical symbols of the glory of God. The disciples are reminded to listen to Jesus by a voice in a cloud as the two prophets disappear. The voice of God himself reminds the disciples to listen to his Son, and this can encourage us to listen for God's voice in our noisy world.
- In today's parallel Old Testament story, Moses receives the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Moses' face shines with the reflected glory of God, for he has truly seen God. He survives the experience but afterwards wears a veil to cover the brightness of his face. Moses, now vested with divine authority, continues to spend time with God regularly.
- Both readings record the witnessing of a special moment, when the glory of God is revealed to human beings. There is special time with God and there is ordinary time too. The special moments are fleeting, but they can strengthen and inspire us as ordinary life continues. God is present in both.

For reflection and comment linking this week's Bible reading to the news, current issues and events, go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) and click on PostScript.



### Questions for reflection

- ▶ Are you a talker or a listener?
- ▶ Who do you listen to?
- ▶ How well do you listen?



### A prayer of approach

*We come to meet you, O gracious God,  
in the way you desire to meet us.  
We come humbly in penitence and adoration.  
We come prayerfully with words and silence.  
We come expectantly and hopefully.  
We seek your guidance.  
We bring our need of your love.  
We come into your holiness and feel your welcome.  
Grant us wisdom to respond in ways that enable us to grow  
in you and become more like you. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.*

### A prayer for others

*O God of healing and holiness,  
we bring before you the leaders of our world in need,  
and ask that they would have the discernment to listen to each other  
and to you, that there may be justice and peace.  
We bring to you the leaders of the Church and other religious  
organisations and communities, and ask that they would have  
the discernment to listen to each other and to you,  
that there may be vision and unity.  
We bring to you those with healing needs (especially...),  
and pray that they will hear you and feel peace;  
that they will encounter you and feel healed;  
that they will know you and feel loved.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*Every day, loving Lord, may I feel your holiness, hear your guidance  
and be encouraged and strengthened by your love.  
Amen.*

### Live your faith

Choose (at least) three different times and places throughout the week, in the ordinariness of life, to pause for a moment and listen to God – ask him to reveal his glory and speak to you.