

The following readings may be used only when the celebration of the liturgy of the word for the children is held in a place apart from the main assembly.

FIRST READING

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

A reading from the book of Genesis

12:1-4a

The LORD said to Abraham,
 “Leave your country, your family, and your relatives
 and go to the land that I will show you.

“I will bless you and make you into a great nation.
 You will become famous and be a blessing to others.
 I will bless the people who say good things about you,
 but I will put a curse on anyone who says evil things about you.
 Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.”

So Abraham left, just as the LORD had told him to do.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

33:4-5, 20 and 22

R/. (22) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
 as we place our trust in you.

**The LORD is truthful;
 he can be trusted.
 He loves justice and fairness,
 and he is kind to everyone
 everywhere on earth.**

R/. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
 as we place our trust in you.

**We depend on you, LORD,
 to help and protect us.
 Be kind and bless us!
 We depend on you.**

R/. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
 as we place our trust in you.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

See Matthew 17:5

R/. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.**

R/. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

Jesus' face shone like the sun.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

17:1-9

Jesus took Peter and the brothers James and John with him.
They went up on a very high mountain where they could be alone.
There in front of the disciples Jesus was completely changed.
His face was shining like the sun,
and his clothes became white as light.

All at once Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus.
So Peter said to him, "Lord, it is good for us to be here!
Let us make three shelters,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was still speaking,
the shadow of a bright cloud passed over them.
From the cloud a voice said,
"This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him.
Listen to what he says!"

When the disciples heard the voice,
they were so afraid that they fell flat on the ground.
But Jesus came over and touched them.
He said, "Get up and don't be afraid!"
When they opened their eyes, they saw only Jesus.

On their way down from the mountain,
Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen
until after the Son of Man had been raised from death.

The gospel of the Lord.