

2nd Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Main Points

1. **Who we listen to shapes our lives** – The joke at the beginning illustrates how different perspectives shape our worldview.
2. **Listening in Scripture** – The Father's voice in the Gospel commands us: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him" (Luke 9:35, NRSVCE).
3. **Listening leads to obedience** – Abram (Genesis 12:1-4) trusted and obeyed God, leading to great blessings.
4. **Jesus is the Good Shepherd** – He is both *kalos* (morally excellent) and *agathos* (competent in His mission). We are called to be like Him in both aspects, according to our circumstances.
5. **Lent is a time to listen even better** – Silence in liturgy, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving all help us hear God's voice more clearly.
6. **St. Joseph's example** – He listened and acted immediately on God's will, as we are called to.
7. **Listening requires action** – True listening transforms us and our relationships, drawing us closer to God.

Scripture References (NRSVCE)

- **Luke 9:35** – "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!"
- **Genesis 12:1-4** – God calls Abram, and he listens in faith.
- **Psalms 27:1** – "The Lord is my light and my salvation."
- **Philippians 3:20** – "Our citizenship is in heaven."
- **Romans 10:17** – "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."

Catechism References (CCC)

- **CCC 144** – "To obey (from the Latin *ob-audire*, to 'listen to') in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself."
- **CCC 2716** – "Contemplative prayer is hearing the Word of God. Far from being passive, such attentiveness is the obedience of faith."
- **CCC 532** – St. Joseph is an example of humble listening and obedience to God.
- **CCC 1439** – Conversion begins with listening to God and responding to His call.

Practical Applications

- **Increase time in prayer** – Spend silent time with God daily, asking Him to speak to your heart.
- **Read Scripture more attentively** – Treat the Bible as God's direct word to you.
- **Examine your Lenten practices** – Ensure fasting, prayer, and almsgiving help you hear God's voice better.
- **Go to Confession regularly** – Listening to God also means receiving His mercy and guidance.
- **Follow St. Joseph's example** – Listen to God's promptings and act on them without delay.

Reflection Questions

1. Who am I listening to most in my daily life? Does it bring me closer to God?
2. How can I improve my ability to listen to God during this Lent?
3. Do I treat prayer as a conversation where I truly listen, or just as a time to speak to God?
4. What changes in my life show that I have truly been listening to Jesus?
5. Do I act on what I hear from God, or do I hesitate and delay obedience?

Rhyme Summary

Listening to God is the way to peace.

God is always speaking, and His efforts to reach out to us never cease.

The question is, do we *listen* to Him?

Do we *listen* and *love*, or just choose our own sin?

Mary and St. Joseph always listened with haste,

They knew God knows best, and that sin is always a waste.

Do we listen to God through the Church and His Word?

The more we listen to God, the more we realize He's got the best content we've ever heard.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>