

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community  
THE SECOND SUNDAY LENT –A-, March 1, 2026  
A VISION OF HOPE, A PROMISE OF LIFE, A SPIRIT OF SERVICE  
Genesis 12:1-4a. Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20,22. 2Timothy 1:8b-10. Matthew 17:1-9  
Homily, Father Ed Hislop

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**W**e have been to the mountain top.

We have seen a vision; we have conversed with one another, and we have “set out to work on God’s house.” The words have been spoken, both to Abram and to us: “Go forth” toward a house I will

show you. A conversation, a journey leading to A VISION OF HOPE, A PROMISE OF LIFE, A SPIRIT OF SERVICE.

“Go forth,” and many will find blessing in you. “Go forth,” bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God. “Go forth” with the conviction and the deep belief that “it is good to be here,” in this place, in this house, on this mountain at this time. We are “going forth!” It is good that we together bear some hardship for the sake of what is yet to be. It is good that we, in many varied ways, are indeed called by God “to be a blessing.” Called to “Go forth” with VISION, a PROMISE, and a generous SPIRIT, bearing together the hardship of the dream with strength that comes from God, a hope of new blessings, and the will to let the conversation and the decision inspire us to leave the mountain top and go to the valley below. The valley below—the place we live and work, struggle and dream; the only place nourished by HOPE, LIFE AND SERVICE.

It is only in the valley of the places we all live, amid our strength and weakness, needs, and gifts, that the VISION, PROMISE, AND SPIRIT seen and heard on the mountain can be made flesh. It is only in our own house, in the midst of our own living that we can truly hear Christ speak: “Rise, and do not be afraid.” Even on a day like

today, when once again we are thrust into the violence of war. War without conversation, without vision, without real purpose, and scandalous, words, daring to call God’s blessing upon it. But even now, in the valley we find ourselves, we still sing with the vision, promise and spirit we have inherited: “Let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you, the eyes of the Lord are upon us”—the Lord, who loves justice, right and kindness. Indeed, let your mercy be upon us, and on all who suffer and die in this war. Together we must hear and live those words of Christ, “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

Words and a vision inspiring us to care, act, and feel the gentle touch of Jesus, even on a day like this, as we choose to make the journey from the mountain top to the real world below. A journey chosen along ways of a just peace, with the loving and merciful Lord leading us; a journey on which we will see those truly bound unjustly, the many longing to be freed from hunger, hatred, violence, and fear. A journey from vision to reality, from a mountain top to a house transfigured with light making the place itself a light by which to see; a home for the many encountered on the way, *no matter where they are “from.”* A house to inspire loving service, true hospitality, honest justice, and peace intertwined with kindness, healing words, and caring worship. A house, where silence, in the face of darkness, hatred and war, is never an option. A place so strong and real, true, and honest, that all who enter are transfigured; binding chains are broken; pardon for the sinner is felt; truth is revealed; the hungry have their fill; ills are healed; hatred is named; the lost are welcomed, and the Holy Table is a place of feasting for all who hunger and thirst.

A house filled with the “noble simplicity” of a loving God, where the grace bestowed upon us in Christ is made manifest—that is, “seen;” a place where the glory and wonder of God is

perceived in all who gather in the house for the church and in the many all around it. A home where the work of human hands bear the imprint of God's creation; a place so true and real, a house bearing such deliberate loving care, such mountain top vision of the valley below, that those who gather, like those led to the mountain top, cannot stay, but hear again and again almost thunderous words: "Go forth from this place where you are bathed in light...to a land I will show you... to the house of the many in need."

This place, this house, is a mountain top, a place from which to see into the valley, a home in which many are changed, renewed, transfigured and even blinded in a wondrous light by which is seen many gifts and needs; where lies are revealed and truth is told. A place where "Peace and Justice meet, Kindness and Truth kiss;" A place where the "hardship of the Gospel" is

shared with strength that comes from God; a place where true greatness is discerned; a place from which to see those bound, oppressed, and hungry; a house from which the song of faith echoes through the world; a place in which the prophets speak, good news is proclaimed, ancient stories are brought to life; and the command to "listen" is heard; a home where ordinary food and drink is broken and poured, with enough for all, becoming an extraordinary promise and hope, making of those who eat and drink the very hands, heart, vision, promise, and spirit of the one who brings us to this mountain!

*It is good that we are here. So "Go forth," but do not tell of the VISION OF HOPE, THE PROMISE OF LIFE OR THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, until you make it real! Still, we work on God's house. Today in war, "the eyes of the Lord are upon us;" still, we "wait for the Lord, who is our help and our shield."*



**A VISION of Hope,  
A PROMISE of Life,  
A SPIRIT of Service.**

**Blessed Trinity Catholic Community Capital Campaign 2026**

