

**There is  
a time...  
and it is  
now!**

# Discovering God as our partner in life

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*It's the  
right time to...*

**Welcome new possibilities  
into our life**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - 22 February  
I set my bow in the clouds...  
a sign of the covenant  
between me and the earth.  
(Gn. 9:13)

**Discover God  
as our partner in life**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday- 1 March  
If God is for us, who can be  
against us? (Rm. 8:31b)

**Stop thinking about faith  
as a collection of rules**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - 8 March  
Take these things out  
of here, and stop making  
my Father's house  
a marketplace! (Jn. 2:16)

**Illuminate our lives**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday- 15 March  
Whoever lives the truth,  
comes to the light... (Jn. 3:21)

**Think of life as a gift of self**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday- 22 March  
Unless a grain of wheat  
falls to the ground and dies,  
it remains just a single grain.  
(Jn. 12:24)

**Cast off fear and face  
our problems**

Palm Sunday -29 March  
Jesus gave a loud cry and  
breathed his last. The veil of  
the sanctuary was torn in two.  
(Mk. 15:37-38)

**Realize that the tomb  
is empty: the Lord is alive  
and goes before of us...**

Easter Sunday - 5 April  
Who will roll back the stone  
for us from the entrance  
to the tomb? (Mk. 16:3)

**Lent - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**

Genesis 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18; Psalm 116 ; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:1-9

"Here I am!" Abraham says to God. And to his son Isaac: "Here I am, my son..." And to the angel of the Lord: "Here I am!" Abraham is a person of faith. He lives in the presence of God. He puts all that is dear to him on the line because he trusts in God. He knows that the Lord does not "rob" a person of life. On the contrary God continually reveals himself to us in the course of our earthly journey, and when we climb his holy mountain he provides for our needs (cf. Gn. 22:14).

Lent is an opportune time to stop thinking of God as our enemy: as an obstacle to our happiness and self-fulfillment. We must undergo conversion, change our way of thinking and purify our hearts. We have often been told and at times we find it to our advantage to believe in a God who gives us life to the degree that we die for him—a God who loves us only if we offer him the sacrifice of our vitality and enthusiasm; only if we kill our dreams and rigidly discipline our human nature. But God is not like that. He gave his life for us. He blesses us. He points to the stars in the sky and the sand on the beach to give us an idea of the abundance of life he wants us to enjoy. Our God is a God who is *with* and *for* us. He is not against us.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus leads his disciples up a mountain and confirms the plan of God written in the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). God's "horizon" is radiant fullness of life for every human being, made possible not by a "superman" but by Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Man, a human being among human beings and at the same time God-with-us.

Let's not waste time looking around distractedly. Let's not imprison ourselves in our fears because within us and around us is clustered all humanity, yearning and pleading for life.

*Prayer* **I** *f you are with us, Lord, then who can stand against us?  
As we travel the twisting path of life,  
help us to trust you; help us to realize that we are not alone.*

*If you are with us, Lord, then who can stand against us?  
You do not condemn us but instead encourage us to lift our gaze.  
Help us to stop justifying ourselves continually;  
open new paths to us on our journey through life.*

*If you are with us, Lord, then who can stand against us?  
You point out to us horizons leading to fullness  
of life, to a new and vibrant life,  
open to the unfolding human story.  
Don't allow us to withdraw into ourselves,  
for you are with us, Lord.*

*If you are truly with us, Lord, then don't allow us  
to wall ourselves off from others  
behind the barrier our religious practices.  
Make us open-hearted to the poor  
and to those who need tenderness and hope.*