
Last Sunday after Epiphany

READINGS

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

OPENING PRAYER

God of glory,
in the mystery of the transfiguration
you revealed Jesus as your Beloved.
From the highest mountain to the lowest valley,
so may he appear to us as the risen Christ
—shining as a light in the darkness,
giving us hope in the midst of suffering,
and faith to perceive his glory,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Holy God,
receive all we offer you this day,
and bring us to that radiant glory
which we see in the transfigured face of Jesus Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face
of your Beloved, Jesus Christ.
May we who share in this sacred meal
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to save.
We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

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FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

A Reading from the Second Book of Kings.

Now when God was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and his disciple Elisha [El-*eesh*-a] were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for God has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As our God lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down together to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today God will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for God has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As our God lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came together to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew Elisha aside, and said to him, 'Do you know that today God will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for God has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As our God lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on together. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the River Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' Elijah responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.'

As they continued walking and talking together, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind

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into heaven. As Elisha watched he cried out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' When he could no longer see him, Elisha grasped his own clothes and rent them in two.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

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PSALM 50:1-6

Our God, the mighty One, has spoken;
**God has summoned the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting again.**

Out of Zion
--in the beauty of its perfection
**--out of Zion
does our God shine forth in glory.**

Our God will come and not keep silent;
**before whom is a devouring fire,
around whom is a mighty tempest.**

God calls to the heavens above
and to the earth below,
to witness the judgment of God's people:

"Gather to me my faithful ones,"
says our God,
**"those who made a covenant with me,
and sealed it with their sacrifice!"**

Let the heavens declare God's righteousness,
for God—our God—is judge!

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SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

So even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. For them, the god of this world has blinded their unbelieving minds, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel—the glory of Christ—who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the same God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, which we see in the face of Jesus Christ.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:2-9

*The Lord be with you.****And with thy spirit.****The Holy Gospel**of our Lord Jesus Christ**according to Mark.****Glory be to Thee, O Lord.****God be with you.****And also with you.****The Good News**of Jesus Christ**according to Mark.****Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And there he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

And there appeared to them Elijah, with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were all terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' But suddenly, as they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

*The Gospel of Christ.****Praise be to Thee, O Christ.****The Gospel of Christ.****Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***