

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY (LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY)

February 11, 2018



THE LESSON 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now the LORD was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here because the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

³The group of prophets from Bethel came out to Elisha. These prophets said to Elisha, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?"

Elisha said, "Yes, I know. Don't talk about it!"

⁴Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here, because the LORD has sent me to Jericho."

But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went to Jericho.

⁵The group of prophets from Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?"

He said, "Yes, I know. Don't talk about it!"

⁶Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan."

But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So both of them went on together.

⁷Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. ⁸Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "What do you want me to do for you before I'm taken away from you?"

Elisha said, "Let me have twice your spirit."

¹⁰Elijah said, "You've made a difficult request. If you can see me when I'm taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don't see me, it won't happen."

¹¹They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm.

¹²Elisha was watching, and he cried out, "Oh, my father, my father! Israel's chariots and its riders!" When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two.

²From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines brightly.

³Our God is coming; he won't keep quiet. A devouring fire is before him; a storm rages all around him.

⁴God calls out to the skies above and to the earth in order to judge his people:

⁵"Bring my faithful to me, those who made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

⁶The skies proclaim his righteousness because God himself is the judge.

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are on the road to destruction. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who don't have faith so they couldn't see the light of the gospel that reveals Christ's glory. Christ is the image of God.

⁵We don't preach about ourselves. Instead, we preach about Jesus Christ as Lord, and we describe ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL Mark 9:2-9

²Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, ³and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. ⁴Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. ⁵Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, "Rabbi, it's good that we're here. Let's make three shrines—one for you, one for

Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He said this because he didn't know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 50:1-6

From the rising of the sun to where it sets, God, the LORD God, speaks, calling out to the earth.

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