

Year B; Transfiguration Sunday
Liturgical Elements
Developed for February 11, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:2-9

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 50*)

One: The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

All: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

One: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

All: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

One: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

All: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Let us worship God!

CALL TO WORSHIP (*alternate, from Psalm 50*)

One: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

All: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

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CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Mark 9*)

In our Gospel passage, Peter, the disciple, is terrified and doesn't know what to say. He speaks out without thinking. We, likewise, can be quick to speak and to act, and we fail to discern God's will and to pay attention to God's work. Let us confess our sin.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Mark 9; 2 Kings 2*)

Merciful God, we can be too much like Peter or the company of prophets confronting Elisha. Terrified, Peter spoke out ready to provide dwellings for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. Rather than being in the moment, he might have missed the tremendous discussion happening right before him and missed the mark on what was to come. Similarly, the company of prophets were preoccupied with Elijah's eventual departure as Elisha remained steadfast. Help us to imitate Elisha, Jesus, and others in all this. Help us to be intentional listeners, truly present, and steadfast in faith. We fail in this far too often; forgive our sin, O Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from 2 Corinthians 4; Mark 9*)

It is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness." He has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Fix your gaze upon Jesus as you grow to know God. Further, while Elijah rose to heaven without death, Jesus is our prototype in death. The Son of Man has risen from the dead and promises the same for us. Follow him, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*alternate, from John 18, 21*)

Later in Peter's time with Jesus, he denies Jesus three times as Jesus stands trial. This is not the end of the story, though. After Jesus is raised from the dead, he finds Peter and confirms his call to Peter three times, "Feed my lambs.... Tend my sheep.... Feed my sheep...". Despite that we all have sinned, Jesus can still use us. Heed his call, follow him, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from 2 Corinthians 4*)

Almighty and loving God, despite that the "god" of this world works to blind the minds of those who do not believe, you are defeating that "god" more and more every day. Through the work of our Lord Jesus, you have made yourself known to many on this earth and call us to spread your good news to even more. In thankfulness for your divine revelation, we offer these gifts for your continued work done through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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