

The Sunday Next before Lent

19th February 2012

The Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

2 Kings 2. 1-12

A reading from the second book of Kings.

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

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

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the 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, until the two of them crossed 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.’ He 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, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, ‘Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

We remain seated to sing together: Psalm 50. 1-6

Choir: Let the heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

All: **Let the heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.**

The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; our God comes and will not keep silence.

All: **Let the heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.**

Consuming fire goes out before him and a mighty tempest stirs about him. He calls the heaven above, and the earth, that he may judge his people.

All: **Let the heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.**

“Gather to me my faithful, who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.” Let the heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

All: **Let the heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4. 3-6

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of 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 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 in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Choir: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.
You have the words of eternal life.

All: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel

Mark 9. 2-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And 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. Then 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 terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Communion Anthem: O nata lux

Music: Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)

Words: 10th century hymn for Lauds on the Feast of the Transfiguration

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi, Dignare clemens supplicum Laudes precesque sumere.	<i>O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer.</i>
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Qui carne quondam contegi Dignatus es pro perditis, Nos membra confer effici Tui beati corporis.	<i>Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost, grant us to be members of thy blessed body.</i>
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Post Communion Prayer:

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 9. 8-17

1 Peter 3. 18-end

Mark 1. 9-15