

# Readings + Transfiguration of Our Lord, year B + February 11, 2024

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## First Reading 2 Kings 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.”

<sup>4</sup> Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup> 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.”

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> 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.” <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its drivers!” But when Elisha could no longer see Elijah, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## Psalmody Psalm 50:1-6

The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken; calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence; with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

**God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.**

“Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause, for it is God who is judge.**

## Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*Paul writes:* <sup>3</sup> Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, “Light will 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 Christ.

## Holy Gospel Mark 9:2-9 [10 – JC add]

*All three synoptic Gospels give a story of Jesus' transfiguration. (The Greek word is "metamorphosis," but only Mark and Matthew have it.) Mark's telling is the shortest, and has no details the others don't include, except the little descriptor in verse 3 that there's nothing on earth that could make clothes this bright! Neither Matthew nor Luke mention that.*

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, 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, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with

Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son-of-Humanity had risen from the dead. [So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.]