

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

11th February 2018

First Reading

2 Kings 2.1-12

The Second Book of the Kings

2 Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 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. 3 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."

4 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. 5 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."

6 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. 7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8 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.

9 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." 10 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." 11 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. 12 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.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 50.1-6

- 1 The mighty one, God the Lord:
speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty:
God shines forth.
- 3 Our God comes and does not keep silence:
before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.
- 4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth:
that he may judge his people:
- 5 “Gather to me my faithful ones:
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”
- 6 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

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Supplementary Readings

2 Kings 5.15-16, 20-27

Psalm 29

1 John 3.15-24

Gospel

Mark 9.2-9

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

² 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, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ 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.” ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

A great prophet has arisen among us! God has visited his people!

Luke 7.16

OR

Sing praises to the Lord, O you faithful ones! Give thanks to God’s holy name!

Psalms 30.4

Prayer of the day

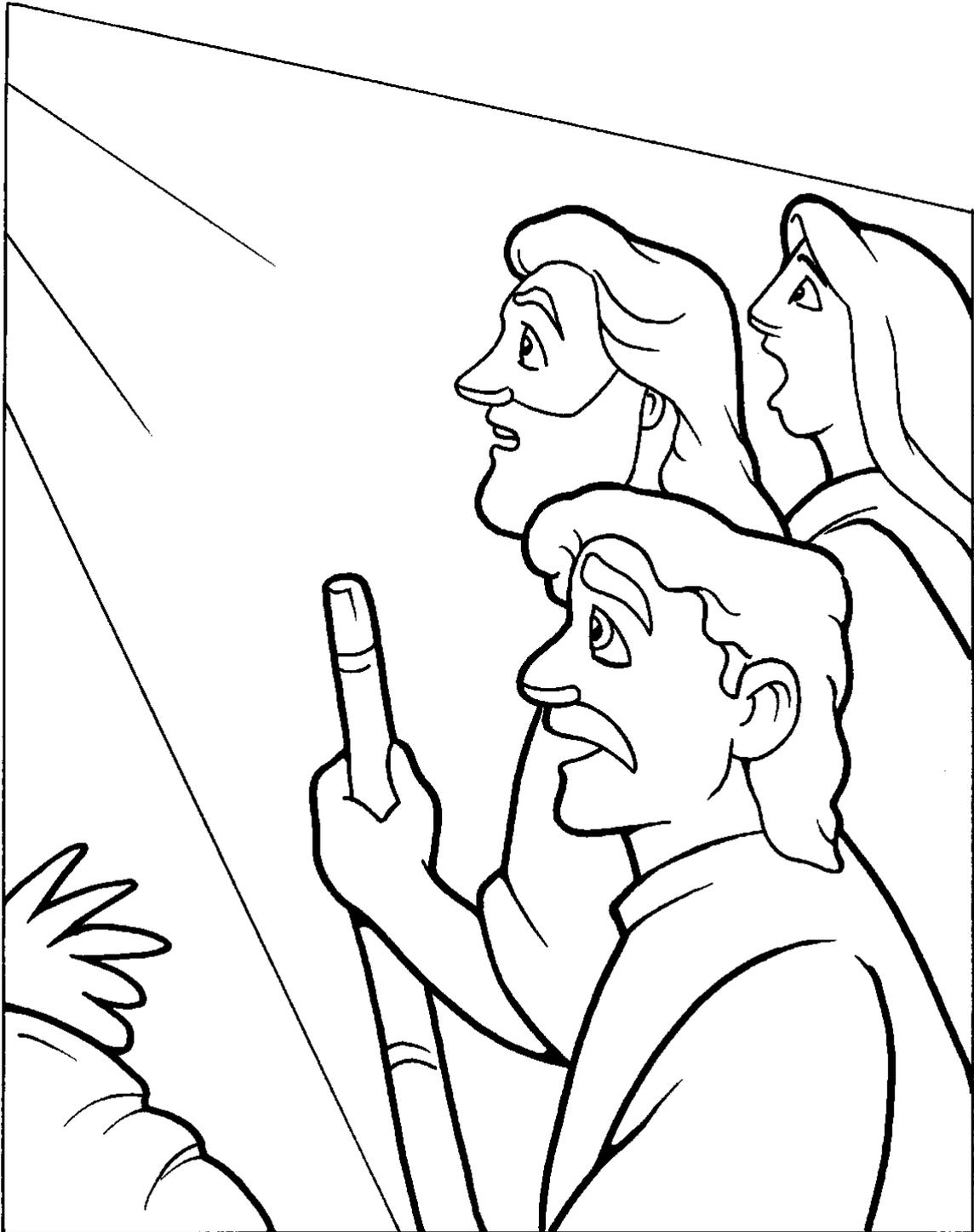
Everlasting God,
your Son, Jesus Christ, healed the lepers
and brought good news to the despised and outcast:
grant us your gifts of compassion and self-control,
that in serving others in their need
we may strive for the imperishable wreath
that you bestow on all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

Prayer Response

Lord, we come to you.

You alone can make us whole.

THE TRANSFIGURATION



After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

MARK 9:2-3