

The First Reading

2 Kings 2:1-12

The First Reading is from Second Kings, chapter 2

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63

- ¹ O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- ² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
- ³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
- ⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
- ⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
- ⁶ when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
- ⁷ for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
- ⁸ My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.
- ⁹ But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
- ¹⁰ they shall be given over to the power of the sword,
they shall be prey for jackals.
- ¹¹ But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Romans 12:1-8

The Second Reading is from Romans, the 12th Chapter

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel of Matthew 17:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 17th chapter. Glory to you O Lord.

17 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." ¹⁰ And the disciples asked him, "Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹¹ He replied, "Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; ¹² but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

O heavenly Father, as we gather once more in your sanctuary, hear our prayers that we lift up to you as we unite our hearts and cry out for the needs of our community and world.

Brief silence for reflection

O God, as our soul thirsts for you, so our bodies thirst for the waters of the earth. Give us the vision to see how we can protect our water supply for all peoples, and provide clean waters to all in need. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God, you satisfy our soul with a rich feast, and provide ample resources that none in the world should ever go hungry. Empower us to provide enough. We give you thanks for ministries like the Jamieson Center here in Monmouth that has a food pantry, may we strive for the day of economic justice that none need to rely on charity – but until that day, may our hearts be generous to a fault. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God we present our bodies to you as a living sacrifice – our healthy bodies, our weakened bodies, our bodies fighting diseases and illnesses, our bodies yearning for the vaccine to the latest virus attacking the world. Protect us and our health, that our bodies may always be a clean image of your temple. But for all who suffer, grant your healing, that though they still reflect your image even in illness, they may receive the comfort and renewal so desired. We lift up to you: Bradly, Josie, Bev, Nancy, Elizabeth, John, Linda, Dave, Jim, Cassie, Delores, Graham, Jim, Bob, Nathan, Ila, Tucker, Marjorie, Norman, Carmen, Barbara, and Ron. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God, you have gifted us differently for work and ministry in the world. Strengthen our passions, shed light on the path we must follow, let us celebrate the differing vocations we each have been called to, and may your Good News be proclaimed through us all. We ask you to be with those who serve in the military, especially Sgt. Lacey Elliott; allow them to serve with honor and return home safely. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God, on a mountaintop Jesus revealed the heavenly glory; he did not remain in that glory, he returned to his journey to Jerusalem and to the cross. Through his death and resurrection, you opened the way for us all to achieve that heavenly glory. May the saints who have died continue in your eternal rest and be our inspiration of faith until the day we join with them and Jesus in that eternal bliss. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

It is with grateful hearts that we lift all concerns, those named and those only the Spirit is able to lift for us, to you. We turn all these over to your care and yearn for your merciful answer, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen