

For Your Study and Reflection This Week

Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now 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." (vv. 1-2)

Psalm 50:1-6

The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth. (vv. 1-2)

2 Corinthians 4:6

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. (v. 6)

Mark 9:2-9

[Peter] 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. (vv. 6-8)

Questions for Reflection

The Old Testament reading for today presents Elijah as a “new Moses”—striking the Jordan with his mantle and causing its waters to part so that he and Elisha could pass through on dry ground (2 Kgs. 2:8). The Gospel reading builds on this comparison by placing Moses and Elijah together at Jesus’ transfiguration (Mark 9:4). There is also a parent-child dynamic in each of these passages. Elisha asks to receive a “double share” of Elijah’s spirit (2 Kgs. 2:9)—the appointed inheritance of a firstborn son (see Deut. 21:17). At the transfiguration, God’s voice from the cloud bestows on Jesus the mantle of divine authority: “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” What do these constellations of relationships suggest to you? How do they help you to understand the transfiguration of Jesus? How is Jesus a fulfillment of the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah)? (See also Luke 24:44.) How is Jesus revealed to be God’s Son, and what does that mean for us? (See also Luke 3:22, 38.)

Household Prayer: Morning

God of glory, I greet you
at the dawning of this day.
Let my life proclaim Christ Jesus
and the good news of the gospel
from the rising of the sun to its setting;
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of glory, I greet you
at the ending of this day.
Overshadow me with your peace
so that I may rest in your presence
from the setting of the sun to its rising;
to the glory of your name. Amen.