

The First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 48:1-11

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus.

Then Elijah arose, a prophet like fire, and his word burned like a torch. He brought a famine upon them, and by his zeal he made them few in number. By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens, and also three times brought down fire. How glorious you were, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds! Whose glory is equal to yours?

You raised a corpse from death and from Hades, by the word of the Most High. You sent kings down to destruction, and famous men, from their sickbeds. You heard rebuke at Sinai and judgements of vengeance at Horeb. You anointed kings to inflict retribution, and prophets to succeed you. You were taken up by a whirlwind of fire, in a chariot with horses of fire. At the appointed time, it is written, you are destined to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and to restore the tribes of Jacob. Happy are those who saw you and were

adorned with your love! For we also shall surely live.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: Luke 9:18-27

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say that I am?’ They answered, ‘John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered, ‘The Messiah of God.’ He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, ‘The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.’ Then he said to them all, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of

Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

OR

Psalm 115

- 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your Name give glory; *
because of your love and because of your faithfulness.
- 2 Why should the heathen say, *
"Where then is their God?"
- 3 Our God is in heaven; *
whatever he wills to do he does.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold, *
the work of human hands.

- 5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; *
eyes have they, but they cannot see;
- 6 They have ears but they cannot hear; *
noses, but they cannot smell;
- 7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk; *
they make no sound with their throat.
- 8 Those who make them are like them, *
and so are all who put their trust in them.
- 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.
- 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.
- 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.
- 12 The LORD has been mindful of us, and he will bless us; *
he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;
- 13 He will bless those who fear the LORD, *
both small and great together.
- 14 May the LORD increase you more and more, *
you and your children after you.
- 15 May you be blessed by the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 16 The heaven of heavens is the LORD'S, *
but he entrusted the earth to its peoples.
- 17 The dead do not praise the LORD, *
nor all those who go down into silence;
- 18 But we will bless the LORD, *
from this time forth for evermore. Hallelujah!