

February 11, 2024 Epiphany 6

Psalm 50:1-6

¹ The Almighty god, the Lord, speaks; he calls to the whole earth from east to west.

² **God shines from Zion, the city perfect in its beauty.**

³ Our God is coming, but not in silence; a raging fire is in front of him, a furious storm around him.

⁴ **He calls heaven and earth as witnesses to see him judge his people.**

⁵ He says, “Gather my faithful people to me, those who made a covenant with me by offering a sacrifice.”

⁶ **The heavens proclaim that God is righteous, that he himself is judge.**

2 Kings 2:1-12

The time came for the Lord to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elijah and Elisha set out from Gilgal, and on the way Elijah said to Elisha, “Now stay here; the Lord has ordered me to go to Bethel.” But Elisha answered, “I swear by my loyalty to the living Lord and to you that I will not leave you.” So they went on to Bethel. A group of prophets who lived there went to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha answered. “But let’s not talk about it.” Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Now stay here; the Lord has ordered me to go to Jericho.” But Elisha answered, “I swear by my loyalty to the living Lord and to you that I will not leave you.” So they went on to Jericho. A group of prophets who lived there went to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha answered. “But let’s not talk about it.” Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Now stay here; the Lord has ordered me to go to the Jordan river.” But Elisha answered, “I swear by my loyalty to the living Lord and to you that I will not leave you.” So they went on and fifty of the prophets followed them to the Jordan. Elijah and Elisha stopped by the river and the fifty prophets stood a short distance away. Then Elijah took off his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the water with it; the water divided, and he and Elisha crossed to the other side on dry ground. There, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what you want me to do for you before I am taken away.” “Let me receive the share of your power that will make me your successor,” Elisha answered. “That is a difficult request to grant,” Elijah replied. “But you will receive it if you see me as I am being taken away from you; if you don’t see me, you won’t receive it.” They kept talking as

they walked on; then suddenly a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire came between them and Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind. Elisha saw it and cried out to Elijah, “My father, my father! Mighty defender of Israel! You are gone!” And he never saw Elijah again. In grief Elisha tore his cloak in two.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³ For if the gospel we preach is hidden, it is hidden only from those who are being lost. ⁴ They do not believe, because their minds have been kept in the dark by the evil god of this world. He keeps them from seeing the light shining on them, the light that comes from the Good News about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. ⁵ For it is not ourselves that we preach; we preach Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ The God who said, “Out of darkness the light shall shine!” is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts, to bring us the knowledge of God’s glory shining in the face of Christ.

Mark 9:2-9

² Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain, where they were alone. As they looked on, a change came over Jesus, ³ and his clothes became shining white - whiter than anyone in the world could wash them. ⁴ Then the three disciples saw Elijah and Moses talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, “Teacher, how good it is that we are here! We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ He and the others were so frightened that he did not know what to say. ⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them with its shadow, and a voice came from the cloud. “This is my own dear Son - listen to him!” ⁸ They took a quick look around but did not see anyone else; only Jesus was with them. ⁹ As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has risen from death.”