



11th February,
2024

Listen to him!

Title: "Listening to Christ:
A Baptismal Commitment"

Introduction:

Today, we reflect upon the texts that remind us of our baptismal commitment to turn to Christ daily. As we delve into the readings from 2 Kings, Psalms, 2 Corinthians, and Mark, let us pay special attention to the words "Listen to Him," which echo through the ages, urging us to heed the voice of our Lord and Saviour.

A word of clarification first, though. Even though

it has been traditional, and the lectionary dates affirm that August 6th is the date for the feast of the Transfiguration, it makes more sense to keep the day before the beginning of Lent. Lectionary dates are arbitrary. Some may argue differently, but from my perspective, in the narrative, this is the end of the season of light, Epiphany. We now prepare ourselves for our baptismal renewal through the period of Lent, listening to what the Lord requires of us.

1. **2 Kings 2.1-12: The Passing of the Mantle**

In this passage, we witness the passing of the mantle of prophetic authority from Elijah to Elisha. As Elijah prepares to depart this world, Elisha faithfully accompanies him, refusing to leave his side. When Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elisha cries out, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" (2 Kings 2:12). Elisha had listened to Elijah's teachings and instructions, and now he is called to continue the prophetic ministry. Just as Elisha heard his mentor, we are called to listen to Christ, who fulfils all prophecy.

2. Psalm 50.1-6: The Mighty One Speaks

The Psalmist declares, "The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the sun's rising to its setting" (Psalm 50:1). Our God is not silent; He continually speaks to His creation. As baptised believers, we are invited to attune our ears to His voice, to listen intently to His guidance and wisdom. In the hustle and bustle of life, let us not forget to pause and listen for the voice of the Mighty One who speaks to our hearts.

3. 2 Corinthians 4.3-6: The Light of the Gospel

Paul reminds the Corinthians that the gospel message is veiled to those who are perishing, but to those who believe, it shines forth as the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4-6). Through our baptism, we have been called out of darkness into this marvellous light. We are entrusted with the treasure of the gospel, and it is our duty to listen to Christ, the Word made flesh, and to share His light with the world.

4. Mark 9.2-9: The Transfiguration

In the Transfiguration account, Peter, James, and John witness the glory of Christ on the mountaintop. They see Jesus transfigured before them, shining with heavenly radiance, and they hear the voice of God declaring, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him" (Mark 9:7). At this moment, the disciples are instructed to prioritise listening to Christ above all else. As baptised Christians, we are also called to heed these words. In our daily lives, amidst the noise and distractions, let us remember the command of the Father to listen to His Son.

Conclusion:

At Easter, we will reaffirm our baptismal commitment to turn to Christ daily, listening attentively to His voice. Just as Elisha received the mantle of Elijah, let us accept the mantle of discipleship from Christ Himself. May we be like the Psalmist, ever attentive to the voice of the Mighty One who speaks to us. Let us be bearers of the light of the gospel, sharing its transformative power with the world. And above all, let us heed the divine command spoken at the Transfiguration: "Listen to Him." Amen.