

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS

In those days: Elijah reached Horeb, the mount of God. There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him. And he said, ‘Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.’ And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS

*Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.*

I will hear what the LORD God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will dwell in our land.
*Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.*

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven.
*Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.*

The LORD will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.
Righteousness will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way.
*Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.*

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Brothers and Sisters: I am speaking the truth in Christ. I am not lying. My conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit — that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers and sisters, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed for ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION .

Alleluia, alleluia.

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

After the crowd had eaten and were satisfied: Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other

side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night; he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, 'It is a ghost!' and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.' And Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

It was very rare to fail an exam in the seminary, the bishop had chosen you, the director of vocations after a discernment weekend had proposed you were okay and you wanted to be there. The lectures were quite gentle and the marks started at 50 % but below 60% was a fail but could go up to 100%. The exams were spoken ones; you had to answer a question, you were asked in 7 minutes and then for the next 7 minutes answer more questions. One exam I failed started with

How do you prove from nature, the existence of God? I said you couldn't which didn't go down well. I had said, science indicated there could be energy/material interactions which could result in a stable system. There could be an eternal energy system without a necessary creator God.

At the retake I suggested, someone else's good idea that one good idea was to say that everything existed because God wanted it to. This world was because God had created it as it was with us in his image, Jesus came to suggest a final good answer, a kingdom of God of

justice peace and joy, there would be a final revelation of this good resolution. A loving creator wants love and opportunities for fulfilment for each of us. Fr Biolo liked this so much, I passed with 98 %. Then told me he had suggested this in a lecture.

Jesus in his time had shown his disciples that he was the Son of God by his power over nature, controlling the wind and the waters. but does not force us to believe. One popular hymn starts with the words of God “I the Lord of sea and sky”, controlling nature could only be done by God so to control a storm and walk on water showed evidence that, , He and the Father are one.” His words and actions convinced his disciples and the great crowds who followed him.

Our choice is to believe Jesus is the Son of God who created all thing with laws of science allowing the diversity of creation because of what he said and did, to believe in a God we trust and to hope we will be able to be fulfilled in his eternal new creation by preparing ourselves while here on earth

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