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# EVENSONG IN THE CHANCEL AT ST PETER'S, HASCOMBE

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Sunday 15th February



PSALM 84

The Old Testament reading is taken from the second book of Kings, chapter 2, verses 1-12

### **Elijah taken up to heaven**

**2** When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. **2** Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.’

But Elisha said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.’ So they went down to Bethel.

**3** The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, ‘Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?’

‘Yes, I know,’ Elisha replied, ‘so be quiet.’

**4** Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.’

And he replied, ‘As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.’ So they went to Jericho.

**5** The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, ‘Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?’

‘Yes, I know,’ he replied, ‘so be quiet.’

**6** Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’

And he replied, ‘As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.’ So, the two of them walked on.

**7** Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at

the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?’

‘Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,’ Elisha replied.

<sup>10</sup>‘You have asked a difficult thing,’ Elijah said, ‘yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours – otherwise, it will not.’

<sup>11</sup>As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. <sup>12</sup>Elisha saw this and cried out, ‘My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!’ And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

This is the word of the Lord (Response): Thanks be to God,

The New Testament reading is taken from Matthew, chapter 17, verses 9-23

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, ‘Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

<sup>10</sup>The disciples asked him, ‘Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?’

<sup>11</sup> Jesus replied, ‘To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognise him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.’ <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

### **Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy**

<sup>14</sup> When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. <sup>15</sup> ‘Lord, have mercy on my son,’ he said. ‘He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. <sup>16</sup> I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.’

<sup>17</sup> ‘You unbelieving and perverse generation,’ Jesus replied, ‘how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.’ <sup>18</sup> Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.

<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, ‘Why couldn’t we drive it out?’

<sup>20</sup> He replied, ‘Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’ [\[a\]](#)

### **Jesus predicts his death a second time**

<sup>22</sup> When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. <sup>23</sup> They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.’ And the disciples were filled with grief.

This is the word of the Lord (Response): Thanks be to God,