

Daily Homily
11 Week in Ordinary Time
Wednesday
[15 June 2022](#)

Again, if I had a favorite prophet, it would be the mighty prophet Elijah. Today, is sort of sad day because Elijah dies. It's the last we hear of him for our daily Masses, except tomorrow we will read from the Book of Sirach which offers Elijah's obituary. And what a scene of death for Elijah... he's not on his last leg, he's not even sick, he's not laying down waiting for that last breath... not at all, not when it comes to this guy. In his death he is taken up into the heavens by flaming chariots and flaming horses in a might whirlwind. Of course! Even in death lots of drama.

But today... Elijah's protégé, his student, and his disciple, Elisha is on the scene. In a few Sundays we will read the call of Elisha. But today we see that this disciple is about to be left alone. He will have to implement all that he has learned and observed on his own. Elijah, being the mighty teacher, offers one last lesson to Elisha. He does so with a request ... what more can I give to you?

Elisha's response is both thrilling and terrifying. He asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. In other words, he wants to be twice as mighty as Elijah. That is thrilling because Elijah was emphatically faithful, boldly brave, hugely wise, and without wavering courageous. Now terrifying ... even Elijah says "this won't be easy..." because the other part of Elijah's spirit is that his spirit was persecuted, hated, ridiculed, he was wanted for dead. It wasn't all happiness and glory but it was also at times lonely and sacrificial. But always, no matter what, Elijah's spirit was effective.

In this Eucharist we have taken on one mightier than Elijah and Elisha put together. In this Eucharist we have taken on and taken up our God in Jesus Christ. This is both thrilling and terrifying. Thrilling that his words of inspiration and wisdom are shared with us. Thrilling that his actions and deeds become for us not just an example but the way for us to live. Terrifying because everything we do will always be marked by the cross, by his passion, and his sacrifice.

Today, may not just a double portion of Jesus' spirit come down upon us but may his whole Spirit be given to us... making us effective.