

Daily Homily
10 Week in Ordinary Time
Thursday
St. Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the Church
Optional Memorial
[9 June 2022](#)

Again, if I had to choose a favorite prophet, Elijah would be it.

I was just reading this, this morning... in the footnotes to the scripture passage of today it indicates that there is a double meaning in Hebrew to the name "Elijah."

One meaning is "I am here." And that is Elijah. You know when he is around, you know when he has arrived. In every episode he makes quite an appearance. He usually, quietly or dramatically, bursts onto a scene. People around him are either edified and honored by his presence, or they are terrified and suspicious of what he is going to do or say. His presence is both a grace and a challenge.

The other meaning to the name Elijah is "Behold, YHWH is my God." Again, a rather bold statement built into his name given that the socially acceptable god of the time is the god, Baal – the god of pleasure and self-seeking... ultimately the god that says, "find fulfillment in worshipping yourself and everything about you." Baal doesn't just exist in Elijah's time. We come up against this god all the time, even now.

But Elijah is bold. It's not about him. It's about the Lord – "Behold, YHWH is my God." It is the Lord who takes Elijah out of his own self interests and allows him to be a bold presence that reveals the presence of God.

May our presence be this way... a grace and a challenge ... a bold proclamation of our belief in the Lord.