

FIRST READING 2Kings 1.9–15

A reading from the Second Book of Kings.

King Ahaziah sent to Elijah the Tishbite a captain of fifty with his fifty men.

He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him,

"O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'"

But Elijah answered the captain of fifty,

"If I am a man of God,

let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty."

Then fire came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty.

He went up and said to him,

"O man of God, this is the king's order: Come down quickly!"

But Elijah answered them,

"If I am a man of God,

let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty."

Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty.

So the third captain of fifty went up,

and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and entreated him,

"O man of God, please let my life,

and the life of these fifty servants of yours,

be precious in your sight.

Look, fire came down from heaven

and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties;

but now let my life be precious in your sight."

Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah,

"Go down with him; do not be afraid of him."

So he set out and went down with him to the king,

For the Word of the LORD.

SECOND READING

Luke 9.46–56

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest.

But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts,
took a little child and put it by his side, and said to them,

"Whoever welcomes this child, in my name, welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me;
for the least among all of you is the greatest."

John answered,

"Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name,
and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us."

But Jesus said to him,

"Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you."

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

And he sent messengers ahead of him.

On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him;
but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

When his disciples James and John saw it, they said,

"Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven
and consume them?"

But he turned and rebuked them.

Then they went on to another village.

For the Word of the LORD.