

A selection from WordSource: *the lectionary-based storytelling project from Children at Worship-Congregations in Bloom.*

Get access to the entire WordSource archive and a host of other resources, or find out about when the Children at Worship consultants may be running a training in your area. Just visit the Children at Worship site at www.childrenatworship.org or e-mail them at info@childrenatworship.org.



[This selection features the entire liturgy of the word. Communities may then return to a Eucharistic rite of their choice to finish the service.]

Introit:

Elijah stands in front of the people. If you are using the poem as the Opening Prayer, then Elijah will be holding a bunch of roses.

In all my lifetime I did not suffer such confusion around my identity as I suffer now, some eight hundred years after my death.

I say "death" but apparently my death isn't to be. They keep invoking my name, raising me up.

This man Jesus asks his disciples, "who do people say that I am." And they answer, "Elijah. Some say you're Elijah."

Well, how can that be. He's not Elijah! I ... am Elijah. I have always been Elijah. In life, in death. Elijah.

I dare say, Jesus himself is confused. Blasphemy! You say. Well, consider this. Jesus thinks I'm John the Baptist.

You think not?

Do you not remember the song they sang of John the Baptist when he was still a babe. "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High: for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways."

And does not this Jesus say, "Elijah is indeed coming first, and he will get everything ready."

If that's not John the Baptist, then who, I ask you? Set the record straight. I am neither John nor Jesus. I am Elijah.

Not only that, I am long dead, as well. Not that I am having an easy time of it. I keep getting called back.. For what, I don't know. To prove a point, maybe, or to make a connection. Maybe to help you make a connection. I know. To establish a tradition.

But please. Lest you forget. I am not Jesus, nor am I John. I am Elijah.

Hymn: "Christ upon the Mountain Peak" (1982 Hymnal, 129) or
"Jesus on the Mountain Peak" (With One Voice, 653)

Procession:

Jesus, Peter, James and John are in the procession. As the four take their places on the "stage", Jesus needs to be a step or two higher than the other three. As their places are set, they freeze.

During the singing of the second verse, from the side aisles (or sacristy) or transepts, Moses joins the scene, and then Elijah, who has moved from his place of soliloquy, joins it. Elijah can take his time, actually. If he can process, then he should do so. The two of them stand to either side of the Jesus/Peter/James/John tableau. Moses and Elijah also freeze.

Collect:

You might use the Collect of the Day (BCP 217) ~ we are not suggesting it ~ or try this!

The Presider, who is either already seated, or from the back of the church, would offer this.

Now is the time,
to climb up the mountain
and reason against habit,
Now is the time.

Now is the time.
to renew the barren soil of nature
ruined by the winds of tyranny,
Now is the time.

Now is the time,
to commence the litany of hope,
Now is the time.

Now is the time,
to give me roses, not to keep them
for my grave to come,
give them to me while my heart beats,
give them today
while my heart yearns for jubilee,
Now is the time.

~ Mzwakhe Mbuli

Bell: (Eyes closed)

Gospel: Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Bell: (Eyes opened)

Scene: Jesus has shed his outer garment so that only his white robe is visible. If you have lighting that can be used to illuminate his face, now is the time to do it.

Hymn: **"Shine, Jesus, Shine" (With One Voice, 651)**

Bell: (Eyes closed)

Gospel: Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.

Bell: (Eyes open)

Scene: Moses and Elijah have moved into the scene. Peter has moved toward Elijah, James toward Moses. Jesus has stepped down from the mountain top.

Bell: (Eyes closed)

Gospel: While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said,

God: "This is my Child, my Beloved; with him I am well pleased. (*The voice of God might come from a hidden and surprising place.*)

Gospel: When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

Bell: (Eyes opened)

Scene: *The disciples are kneeling, with faces to the ground around Jesus. Jesus touches one or two of them on the shoulder.*

Gospel: And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself, alone.

Jesus hands a rose each to Peter, James and John, as they exit. Then Jesus exits.

Prayers of the People: James, John and Moses lead the prayers, from back of the sanctuary. Each prayer might be offered in character.

Confession: Peter leads the Confession

Absolution:

Peace: