

Living Faith

September 30

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Power and Glory and Water

Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!

Numbers 11:29

The Lord comes down in a cloud to talk to Moses and bestows the spirit upon the others in his camp. But when even those who are not in the camp begin to prophesy, Joshua asks Moses to stop them. Moses refuses because he knows he does not control the Spirit, and he will not jealously guard it. That story is echoed in today's gospel, when John warns Jesus that others have been healing in his name. Jesus does not rebuke those healers who aren't numbered among his followers.

I love the idea that the Holy Spirit moves with that kind of power through creation, through clouds and mighty winds and tongues of fire. It will not be manipulated or restrained. It may come in power and glory to those who are outside of our camp, and its presence may be regarded in as simple a human action as offering, as Christ says, a cup of water to drink.

Jessica Mesman Griffith

Numbers 11:25-29 • Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-14
James 5:1-6 • Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

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