Prophet
Job 38:1-7

Then
the LORD answered Job
out of the whirlwind:

2 'Who is this
that darkens counsel
by words without knowledge?

3 Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you,
and you shall declare to me.

4 'Where were you
when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me,
if you have understanding.

5 Who determined
its measurements
—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone

7 when the morning stars
sang together

and all the heavenly beings
shouted for joy?

Epistle
Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals
is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf,
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

2He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward,
since he himself is subject to weakness;
3and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins
as well as for those of the people.

4And one does not presume to take this honour,
but takes it only when called by God,
just as Aaron was.

5 So also Christ did not glorify himself
in becoming a high priest,
but was appointed by the one who said to him,
'You are my Son,
today I have begotten you';
6as he says also in another place,
'You are a priest for ever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

7 In the days of his flesh,
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears,
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

8Although he was a Son,
he learned obedience through what he suffered;
9and having been made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation
for all who obey him,
10having been designated by God
a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel
Mark 10:35-45

35 James and John,
the sons of Zebedee,
came forward to him
and said to him,

'Teacher,
we want you to do for us
whatever we ask of you.'

36And he said to them,
'What is it
you want me to do for you?'

37And they said to him,
'Grant us to sit,
one at your right hand
and one at your left,
in your glory.'

38But Jesus said to them,
'You do not know
what you are asking.
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,
or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?'

39They replied, 'We are able.'

Then Jesus said to them,
'The cup that I drink
you will drink;
and with the baptism with which I am baptized,
you will be baptized;
40but to sit at my right hand or at my left
is not mine to grant,
but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

41 When the ten heard this,
they began to be angry
with James and John.

42So Jesus called them
and said to them,

'You know
that among the Gentiles
those whom they recognize
as their rulers
lord it over them,
and their great ones
are tyrants over them.

43But it is not so
among you;

but whoever wishes
to become great
among you
must be your servant,

44and whoever wishes
to be first
among you
must be slave of all.

45For the Son of Man
came not to be served
but to serve,
and to give his life
a ransom for many.'

Reading Wisdom this Week

This is the 'theophany' promised 2 weeks ago
after over 30 chapters of 4-way debate,
Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar with Job,
(plus Elihu's interruption)
God speaks from a whirlwind

I suspect that most of us 'read' Job as RCL does:
The opening fable, the theophany, and the 'happy ending'
It's like a Wikipedia blurb – school notes
Our eyes skip over the rest

I've been reading Robert Alter's 2019 translation
Presumed to record audio reading
Which would be better read in 5 voices – anybody?
Meanwhile, here's a link:
http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2024/10/reading-job-in-robert-alter-translation.html

When a person really is sidelined, derailed
They've got time for Job to inform or express experience
Do we fear it will build self-defeating spirals,
defying Cognitive Behavioural Therapy?

2006, 'Humbled Christians', I took a shot at Job 38:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2006/10/humbled-christians-job38-mark10.html

Reading the Epistle this Week

The lectionary jumps to Hebrews 5,
Developing 'priesthood' of Christ, Jesus, Son
Compare and contrast Aaron and Melchizedek

By the time this book is written,
The Second Temple is razed by Romans
The end of 1000 years of Jerusalem temple cult

In our subculture, purity/sacrifice piety is strange –
Remember, we're the WEIRD ones
(Western, Educated, Industrial, Rich, Democratic)

What was lost to diaspora in 70CE,
And how does construing Jesus this way fill the gap
For their lost tradition – and for ours?

This may be familiar to college kids,
undergrad anthropology or comparative religion,
Mircea Eliade's 'Sacred and Profane'

It's valuable in study and pastoral conversation,
But I don't have much traction in preaching it
(open to suggestions!)

2018 'Third Side Thinking'
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2018/10/third-side-thinking.html

Reading the Gospel this Week

It appears that I've enjoyed this theme,
Taking down the overconfidence of James and John,
In transitional ministries:

We just got the 3rd passion prediction,
The sons of Zebedee (not their mom as in Matthew) ask
Mark's Jesus asks back in a formula repeated next to Blind Bart

What do we want, ask, and get from Jesus?
Ask James and John – or the other 10 of the 12
Is it just vanity, or 'command and control' status?

Who and what do we serve,
And what are the consequences,
Amplifying the passion prediction?

2012 'Steering and Sharing'
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2012/10/steering-and-sharing.html

2009 'Oh, Yeah?'
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2009/10/oh-yeah.html

2006 'Humbled Christians' (as noted for Job)
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2006/10/humbled-christians-job38-mark10.html

2003 'No Problem'
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2003/10/no-problem.html