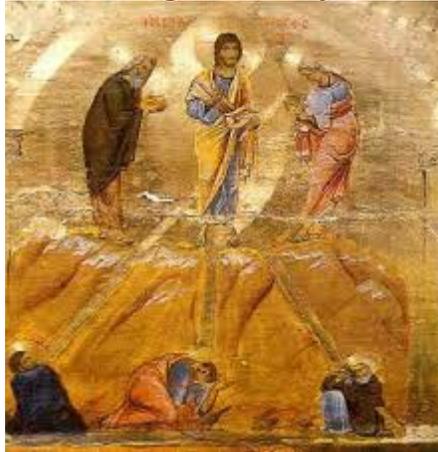


The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

Readings & Hymns



Troparion, Transfiguration - Tone 7

Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, / revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. / Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners! // Through the prayers of the Theotokos! O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Konatakion, Transfiguration - Tone 7

On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, / and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; / so that when they would behold Thee crucified, / they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, / and would proclaim to the world // that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

READINGS AT DIVINE LITURGY

The Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all. (*Ps 103 [104]: 24*)

All (choir): O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Reader, verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (*Ps 103 [104]: 1*)

All (choir): O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Reader: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works!

All (choir): In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The Epistle

§ 65: 2 Peter 1: 10 - 19 (*Transfiguration*)

BRETHREN, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure for if ye do these things ye shall not sin at any time: for so an entrance shall be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though ye know them, and are established in the present truth.

Yea, I think it is right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my body, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

Moreover I will be careful to ensure that ye always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

The Alleluia

Reader: Alleluia in the 8th Tone.

All (choir): Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader, verse: The heavens are Thine; the earth also is Thine. (*Transfiguration*)
(Ps 88 [89]:11)

All (choir): Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader, verse: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout! (Ps 88 [89]:15a).

All (choir): Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Gospel

§ 70: Matthew 17: 1 - 9 (*Transfiguration*)

AT THAT TIME, Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

² And was transfigured before them:

and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

- ³ And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.
- ⁴ Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
- ⁵ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
- ⁶ And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.
- ⁷ And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.
- ⁸ And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.
- ⁹ And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

Hymn to the Theotokos - Tone 4

Instead of "It is truly meet ..." we sing:

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord who was transfigured on Mount Tabor!

Thy birthgiving was incorruptible.

God came from thy body and appeared on earth in flesh,
dwelling among men.

Therefore we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy name forever. *(Ps 88 [89]: 15b)* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Vespers 1st reading Exodus 24:12-18

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Vespers, 2nd reading **Composite 15 - Exodus 33:11-23; 34:4-6, 8**

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, as if one should speak to his friend; and he returned to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, departed not from the Tabernacle. And Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, Thou didst command me to lead forth this people, but Thou hast not showed me whom Thou wilt send with me; but Thou hast said to me, 'I know you above all, and you have found favor with me.' If, then, I have found grace in Thy sight, reveal Thyself to me, that I may see Thee clearly, that I may find grace in Thy sight, and that I may know that this great nation is Thy people." And the Lord said unto him, "I Myself will go before you, and I will give you rest." And Moses said to Him, "If Thou Thyself dost not go with us, bring me not up from here.

² "And how shall it be surely known that both I and Thy people have found grace with Thee, except Thou go with us? So both I and Thy people shall be glorified beyond all the nations, as many as are upon the earth." And the Lord said to Moses, "This word also, which you have spoken, I will do; for you have found grace before Me, and I know you above all." And Moses said, "Show me Thy glory."

³ And the Lord said to Moses, I will go before you with My glory, and I will call out My name, 'the Lord' before you; and I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." And again He said, "You shall not be able to see My face, for man shall not see My face and live." And again the Lord said, "Behold there is a place by Me; you shall stand upon the rock. And when My glory shall pass by, then I will put you in a cleft on the rock; and I will cover you with My hand, until I pass by. And I will take away My hand, and then you shall see My backside; but My face shall not appear to you."

⁴ And having risen early in the morning, Moses went up Mount Sinai, as the Lord had told him. And the Lord descended in a cloud, and Moses stood there before Him and called out in the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before his face, and called out, "The Lord God, compassionate and merciful, longsuffering, greatly-merciful, and true." And Moses, making haste, stooped down to the earth and worshipped the Lord.

Vespers, 3rd reading **Composite 23 - 3 [1] Kings 19:3-9, 11-13, 15, 16**

¹ In those days, Elijah went to Beersheba, in the land of Judah. And he left his servant there and went a days journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree. And he lay down and slept under the tree. And behold, someone touched him and said to him, "Arise, eat and drink." And Elijah looked, and behold, at his head there was a cake of barley and a cruse of water. And he arose, and ate and drank, and lay down again and slept.

² And the angel of the Lord returned a second time, and touched him, and said to him, "Arise, eat and drink, for the journey will be too much for you." And he arose, and ate

and drank. And he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb.

³ And he entered there into a cave, and lodged there. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and the Lord said to him, "You shall go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountain, and broke in pieces the rock before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a voice of a gentle breeze, and the Lord was there. And it came to pass when Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his mantle and went out and stood before the cave.

⁴ And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way, and you shall come on the way of the wilderness of Damascus; and you shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat to be prophet in your place."

Matins Gospel

§ 45 Luke 9:28-36

AT THAT TIME, JESUS took Peter and John and James,
and went up into a mountain to pray.

²⁹ And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered,
and his raiment was white and glistening.

³⁰ And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

³¹ Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease
which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

³² But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep:
and when they were awake,
they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

³³ And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus,
Master, it is good for us to be here:
and let us make three tabernacles;
one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

³⁴ While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them:
and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

³⁵ And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying,
This is my beloved Son: hear him.

³⁶ And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone.
And they kept it close,
and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

From the Sermons of St Leo of Rome, the Great
On the Transfiguration

The Lord takes chosen witnesses, and in their presence, reveals His glory. That form of body which He had in common with other men, He so transfigured with light, that His Face did shine as the sun, and His raiment became exceeding white as snow. Of this metamorphosis the chief work was to remove from the hearts of the disciples the stumbling at the Cross. Before their eyes was unveiled the splendor of His hidden majesty, that the lowliness of His freely-chosen suffering might not confound their faith.

But none the less was there here laid by the Providence of God a solid foundation for the hope of the Holy Church, whereby the whole body of Christ should know with what a change it is yet to be honored. **The members of that body whose Head hath already been transfigured in light may promise themselves a share in His glory.**

For the strengthening the Apostles and bringing them forward into all knowledge, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias that is, the Law and the Prophets talking with Him. Before five witnesses did His glorification take place, as though to fulfill that which is written: At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.¹ What can be more certain, what can be better attested than this matter, which is proclaimed by the trumpets of both the Old and the New Testaments, and concerning which the witness of ancient testimony unites with the teaching of the Gospel. The pages of either Covenant strengthen one another, and the brightness of open glory makes manifest and distinct Him Whom the former prophecies had promised under the veil of mysteries.

The unveiling of such mysteries roused the mind of the Apostle Peter to an outburst of longing for the things eternal, which despised and disdained the things worldly and earthly overflowing with gladness at the vision, he yearned to dwell with Jesus there, where the revelation of His glory had rejoiced him. And so he said Master, it is good for us to be here if Thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. To this proposal the Lord answered nothing, this signifying, that what Peter wished was not wrong, but out of place, since the world could not be saved but by the death of Christ.

¹ Deut. 19:15.

And the Lord's example was to call the faith of believers to this, that although it behooves us to have no doubts concerning the promise of eternal blessedness, yet we are to understand that, amid the trials of this life, we are to seek for endurance before glory.

