

6 August – Transfiguration

FEAST; white

This feast had its origin in the East in the fourth century as the commemoration of the dedication of the church of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. It was observed in the West from the eighth century and extended to the entire Western Church in the fifteenth century. The feast celebrates the divine radiance shining in Christ's human flesh and God's glory shining forth in the lives of Christians.

First Reading † Daniel 7:9-10.13-14

A reading from the book of Daniel

His raiment was as white as snow.

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place
and one of great age took his seat.
His robe was white as snow,
the hair of his head as pure as wool.
His throne was a blaze of flames,
its wheels were a burning fire.
A stream of fire poured out,
issuing from his presence.

A thousand thousand waited on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
A court was held and the books were opened.
I gazed into the visions of the night.

And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.

On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages
became his servants.

His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 96:1-2.5-6.9

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right.

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory.

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits.

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

Second Reading † 2 Peter 1:16-19

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We heard this voice from out of heaven.

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said,

‘This is my Son, the Beloved;
he enjoys my favour.’

We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 17:5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight:
listen to him.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel [Year A] † Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

His face was shining like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus.

‘Lord,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here;
if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you,
one for Moses and one for Elijah.’

He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said,

'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.
Listen to him.'

When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them.

'Stand up,' he said
'do not be afraid.'

And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order,

'Tell no one about the vision
until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [Year B] † Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the Beloved.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured; his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus:

'Rabbi,' he said,
'it is wonderful for us to be here;
so let us make three tents, one for you,
one for Moses and one for Elijah.'

He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud,

'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [Year C] † Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As he prayed the aspect of his face was changed.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his

companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus,

‘Master, it is wonderful for us to be here;
so let us make three tents, one for you,
one for Moses and one for Elijah.’

– He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud, saying,

‘This is my Son, the Chosen One.
Listen to him.’

And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.