

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

His raiment was as white as snow.

A reading from the book of Daniel

'While I was watching,
thrones were set in place
and one most venerable 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 upon him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
The court was in session and the books lay open.

'I was gazing into the visions of the night
when I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
as it were a son of man.
He came to the One most venerable
and was led into his presence.

On him was conferred rule, honour and kingship,
and all peoples, nations and languages became his servants.
His rule is an everlasting rule which will never pass away,
and his kingship will never come to an end.

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 the many islands be glad.
Cloud and darkness surround him;
justice and right are the foundation of his throne.

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

The mountains melt like wax
before the face of the Lord,
before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his righteousness;
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 gods.

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

Second Reading † 2 Peter 1:16-19

We heard this voice from out of heaven.

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

When we told you about the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not slavishly repeating cleverly invented myths; no, we had witnessed his majesty with our own eyes. He received honour and glory from God the Father, when a voice came to him from the transcendent glory,

‘This is my Son, the Beloved,
in whom I am well pleased.’

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

So we have the word of the prophets more fully confirmed, and you would do well to pay attention to it as a lamp shining in a dark place until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your heart.

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

His face was shining like the sun.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain on their own. In their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as dazzling as light. And suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus, saying,

‘Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here; if you want me to,
I will make three shelters 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 suddenly 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, saying,

‘Stand up, do not be afraid.’

And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but Jesus himself, alone.

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

‘Tell no one about this vision until the Son of man has risen from the dead.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [Year B] † Mark 9:2-10

This is my Son, the Beloved.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain on their own by themselves. In their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became brilliantly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus,

‘Rabbi,’ he said, ‘it is wonderful for us to be here;
so let us make three shelters, 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 from the cloud came a voice,

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

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

As they were coming down from the mountain he instructed them to tell no one what they had seen, except when the Son of man had risen from the dead. And they kept the matter to themselves, though they puzzled what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [Year C] † Luke 9:28-36

As he prayed the aspect of his face was changed.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now about eight days after these sayings, taking Peter, John and James with him Jesus went up the mountain to pray. And it happened that, as he was praying, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became dazzling white. And suddenly there were two men talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his departure which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but when they were fully awake they 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 shelters, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah,’

not knowing what he was saying. While he was saying this, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and as 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. They themselves kept silence and, in those days, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.