

The Feast of Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-9

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 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. 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. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. 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. (KJV)

We are blessed to celebrate the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ today. The Holy Gospel describes Jesus' face as being like the sun. His raiment was white as light.

We can only imagine the glory of Jesus's appearance on the mountain. Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus as the transfiguration was taking place. Peter, James and John were blessed beyond measure to experience this divine occurrence.

The Church has celebrated the Transfiguration through the succeeding centuries. Believers benefit from learning of the Transfiguration and the meaning for their personal lives.

Each believer has the opportunity to think about Jesus' power to transfigure personal lives through faith. Peter, James and John were certainly were forever changed and strengthened by their witness of the Transfigured Christ.

Present day believers are strengthened when learning of the Transfiguration. The Light of Christ shown on the mountain brings to mind the Light of Christ at the time of the Resurrection.

Believers' lives are intended to change when learning of and celebrating the Feast of the Transfiguration. Each Divine Feast and each Divine Liturgy intends change in believers.

Believers are to become more Christ-like with each Divine Liturgy and each major feast. Change is possible for all believers in Christ. Hearing the Holy Gospel and partaking of the Precious Body of Blood unites and transforms the believer.

Stagnancy has no place in the Christian life. Believers are expected to grow in Christ throughout life. The Feast of the Transfiguration is an annual opportunity to experience Christ and learn of Christ.

God's Holy Church affords believers with the opportunity to unite with and grow in Christ. May the joy of Christ's Transfiguration enlighten each believer today. May the Light of Christ burn brightly in each heart, mind and soul.

The Great Feast of the Transfiguration. August 6/19. 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic