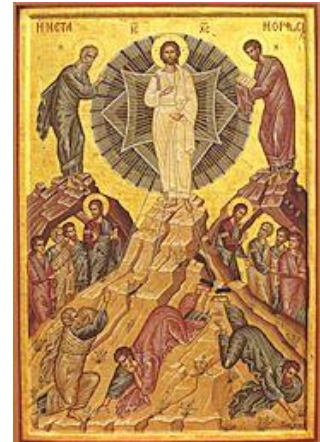


The Transfiguration of our Lord

August 6



Services:

At St Philip Church

Saturday, August 5, 2017

6:00 pm - Vespers & Artoklasia

Sunday, August 6, 2017

8:45 am - Matins

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy

11:45 am - Blessing of Fruit & Garden Produce

Scripture readings:

Luke 9:28-36

2 Pet 1:10-19; Matt 17:1-9

The Synaxarion:

On August 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the divine Transfiguration of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Verses:

Tabor was glorified above earth's every region
When it looked upon God's nature
shining in glory. On the sixth Christ transformed His form as a man.

This glorious event is recorded in the Gospels of Mark (9:2-13), Luke (9:28-36 in Orthros) and Matthew (17:1-9 in Liturgy). In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion and His glorious Resurrection. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples, the All-wise Savior wanted to show them His divine glory before His passion on the Holy Cross. (This is why we sing the Katavasias of the Holy Cross on this day.) For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and went out at night to Mount Tabor. The Lord took only three disciples on Tabor because the Lord did not want to leave the unworthy Judas alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal. Our Lord was transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts. For, climbing to the heights required labor and height represents the heights of our thoughts, i.e., godly-thoughts. Moses and Elijah appeared in order to destroy the erroneous thought of the Jews that the Christ is one of the prophets; that is why He appears as a King above the prophets and that is why Moses and Elijah appear as His servants. Until then, our Lord manifested His divine power many times to the disciples but, on Mount Tabor, He manifested His divine nature. This vision of His Divinity and the hearing of the heavenly witness about Him as the Son of God would serve the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory. Unto Christ God be glory and dominion unto the ages. Amen.

Apolytikion (Tone Seven)

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.

Kontakion (Tone Seven)

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

Awake, ye sluggards, lie not forever on the ground; and ye thoughts that draw my soul toward the earth, arise and go up to the high slope of the divine ascent. Let us run to join Peter and the sons of Zebedee, and go with them to Mount Tabor, that with them we may see the glory of our God and hear the voice they heard from heaven; and they proclaimed that this is truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

More Resources:

<http://antiochian.org/transfiguration> (includes links to more resources)

<https://www.goarch.org/transfiguration>

How to Celebrate the Feast:

Invite a friend to church.

Prepare a festal meal.

Read about Christ's Transfiguration (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9; 2 Pet 1; 2 Cor 3)

Sing the festal Troparion: "When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain"

Give Alms. Help someone. Be bold in generosity!

Use the appropriate Feast Day Greeting (or response) when meeting others

Visit relatives, friends, and neighbors (especially those in assisted living, who are homebound, or in the hospital)

Bring flowers, fruit, candles, etc., for blessing when appointed and distribute to your family and those you visit.

Listen to an AncientFaith.com podcast on the Transfiguration.

Have an extended amount of prayerful silence with the Jesus Prayer.