

The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5). Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

Η Μεταμόρφωση του Σωτήρος Χριστού

Οι τρεις μαθητές Του, όπως ήταν κουρασμένοι από τη δύσκολη ανάβαση στο Θαβώρ και ενώ κάθισαν να ξεκουραστούν, έπεσαν σε βαθύ ύπνο. Όταν, ξύπνησαν, αντίκρισαν απροσδόκητο και εξαιρετικό θέαμα. Το πρόσωπο του Κυρίου άστραφτε σαν τον ήλιο, και τα φορέματα Του ήταν λευκά σαν το φως. Τον περιστοιχίζαν δε και συνομιλούσαν μαζί Του δυο άνδρες, ο Μωϋσής και ο Ηλίας. Γράφει χαρακτηριστικά ο Άγιος Νικόδημος ο Αγιορείτης: «Έφερε δε εις το μέσον τους τον Μωυσήν και τον Ηλίαν, διά να διορθώση τας σφαλεράς υποψίας, οπού είχαν οι πολλοί περί αυτού. Καθότι, άλλοι μεν έλεγον τον Κύριον, πως είναι ο Ηλίας. Άλλοι δε, πως είναι ο Ιερεμίας. Διά τούτο λοιπόν επαράστησεν εις το Θαβώρ τους πρώτους και κορυφαίους Προφήτας, διά να γνωρίσουν οι μαθηταί, και διά των μαθητών όλοι οι άνθρωποι, πόση διαφορά είναι αναμεταξύ του Χριστού, και των Προφητών. Ο μεν γαρ Χριστός, είναι Δεσπότης. Οι δε Προφήται, είναι δούλοι. Και ίνα μάθουν, ότι ο Κύριος έχει την εξουσίαν του θανάτου και της ζωής. Διά τούτο, από μεν τους αποθαμένους, έφερε τον Μωυσήν. Από δε τους ζωντανούς, έφερε τον Ηλίαν». Αφού οι μαθητές συνήλθαν κάπως από την έκπληξη, ο πάντα ενθουσιώδης, Πέτρος, θέλοντας να διατηρηθεί αυτή η αγία μέθη που προκαλούσε η ακτινοβολία του Κυρίου, ικετευτικά είπε να στήσουν τρεις σκηνές. Μια για τον Κύριο, μια για το Μωϋσή και μια για τον Ηλία. Πριν προλάβει, όμως, να τελειώσει τη φράση του, ήλθε σύννεφο που τους σκέπασε και μέσα απ' αυτό ακούστηκε φωνή που έλεγε: «Ούτος έστιν ο υίός μου ο αγαπητός· αυτού ακούετε» (Λουκά, θ' 28-36). Δηλαδή, Αυτός είναι ο Υιός μου ο αγαπητός, που τον έστειλα για να σωθεί ο κόσμος. Αυτόν να ακούτε. Οφείλουμε, λοιπόν, και εμείς όχι μόνο να Τον ακούμε, αλλά και να Τον υπακούμε. Σε οποιοδήποτε δρόμο μας φέρει, είμαστε υποχρεωμένοι να πειθαρχούμε.

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August 6th - Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord



ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΑ

Απολυτίκιον της Εορτής

Μετεμορφώθης εν τώ όρει Χριστέ ο Θεός, δείξας τοίς Μαθηταίς σου τήν δόξαν σου, καθώς ήδυναντο, Λάμψον και ημίν τοίς αμαρτωλοίς, τό φώς σου τό αϊδιον, πρεσβείαις τής Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

Κοντάκιον

Επί τού όρους μετεμορφώθης, και ως εχώρουν οι Μαθηταί σου τήν δόξαν σου, Χριστέ ο Θεός εθεάσαντο, ίνα όταν σε ίδωσι σταυρούμενον, τό μέν πάθος νοήσωσιν εκούσιον, τώ δέ κόσμω κηρύξωσιν, ότι σύ υπάρχεις αληθώς, τού Πατρός τό απαύγασμα.

APOLYTIKIA

Apolytikion of the Feast

You were transfigured on the Mount, Christ God revealing Your glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend. Illuminate us sinners also with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of light, glory to You.

Kontakion

You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father.

GOSPEL & EPISTLE READINGS

Πέτρου β' 1:10-19 Ἀδελφοί, σπουδάσατε βεβαίαν ὑμῶν τὴν κλήσιν καὶ ἐκλογὴν ποιῆσθαι ταῦτα γὰρ ποιῶντες οὐ μὴ πταισῆτε ποτε· οὕτως γὰρ πλουσίως ἐπιχορηγηθήσεται ὑμῖν ἡ εἴσοδος εἰς τὴν αἰώνιον βασιλείαν τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν καὶ σωτῆρος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ οὐκ ἀμελήσω ἀεὶ ὑμᾶς ὑπομιμνήσκω περὶ τούτων, καίπερ εἰδόμενος, καὶ ἐστηριγμένους ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ ἀληθείας. Δίκαιον δὲ ἡγοῦμαι, ἐφ' ὅσον εἰμι ἐν τούτῳ τῷ σκηνώματι, διεγείρειν ὑμᾶς ἐν ὑπομνήσει· εἰδὼς ὅτι ταχινή ἐστὶν ἡ ἀπόθεσις τοῦ σκηνώματός μου, καθὼς καὶ ὁ κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς ἐδήλωσέν μοι. Σπουδάσω δὲ καὶ ἑκάστοτε ἔχειν ὑμᾶς μετὰ τὴν ἐμὴν ἔξοδον τὴν τούτων μνήμην ποιῆσθαι. Οὐ γὰρ σεσοφισμένοις μύθοις ἐξακολουθήσαντες ἐγνωρίσαμεν ὑμῖν τὴν τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ δύναμιν καὶ παρουσίαν, ἀλλ' ἐπόπτει γεννηθέντες τῆς ἐκείνου μεγαλειότητος. Λαβὼν γὰρ παρὰ θεοῦ πατρὸς τιμὴν καὶ δόξαν, φωνῆς ἐνεχθείσης αὐτῷ τοιαῦδε ὑπὸ τῆς μεγαλοπρεποῦς δόξης, Οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, εἰς ὃν ἐγὼ εὐδόκησα· καὶ ταύτην τὴν φωνὴν ἡμεῖς ἠκούσαμεν ἔξ οὐρανοῦ ἐνεχθείσαν, σὺν αὐτῷ ὄντες ἐν τῷ ὄρει τῷ ἁγίῳ. Καὶ ἔχομεν βεβαιότερον τὸν προφητικὸν λόγον, ᾧ καλῶς ποιεῖτε προσέχοντες, ὡς λύχνω φαίνοντι ἐν ἀσχημῶ τόπῳ, ἕως οὗ ἡμέρα διαυγάσῃ, καὶ φωσφόρος ἀνατείλῃ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν.

St. Peter's Second Universal Letter 1:10-19 BRETHREN, be more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 17:1-9 Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραλαμβάνει ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὸν Πέτρον καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀναφέρει αὐτοὺς εἰς ὄρος ὑψηλὸν κατ' ἰδίαν· καὶ μετεμορφώθη ἔμπροσθεν αὐτῶν, καὶ ἔλαμψε τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ὡς ὁ ἥλιος, τὰ δὲ ἰμάτια αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο λευκὰ ὡς τὸ φῶς. καὶ ἰδοὺ ὤφθησαν αὐτοῖς Μωσῆς καὶ Ἠλίας μετ' αὐτοῦ συλλαλοῦντες. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπε τῷ Ἰησοῦ· Κύριε, καλὸν ἐστὶν ἡμᾶς ὧδε εἶναι· εἰ θέλεις, ποιήσωμεν ὧδε τρεῖς σκηνάς, σοὶ μίαν καὶ Μωσεὶ μίαν καὶ μίαν Ἠλίας. ἐτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ἰδοὺ νεφέλη φωτεινὴ ἐπεσκίασεν αὐτοὺς, καὶ ἰδοὺ φωνὴ ἐκ τῆς νεφέλης λέγουσα· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα· αὐτοῦ ἀκούετε· καὶ ἀκούσαντες οἱ μαθηταὶ ἔπεσον ἐπὶ πρόσωπον αὐτῶν καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν σφόδρα. καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἤψατο αὐτῶν καὶ εἶπεν· ἐγέρθητε καὶ μὴ φοβεῖσθε. ἐπάραντες δὲ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτῶν οὐδένα εἶδον εἰ μὴ τὸν Ἰησοῦν μόνον. καὶ καταβαινόντων αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄρους ἐνετείλατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· μηδεὶν εἰπῆτε τὸ ὄραμα ἕως οὗ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῆ.

Matthew 17:1-9 At that time, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please visit our Anthony Crassides Philokalia Bookstore

You can purchase books, icons, prayer ropes and gifts for special feasts & occasions.

St. Stephanos Young Adult Fellowship Fundraiser for St. Stephanos Icon

If you would like to help the St. Stephanos Young Adult Group donate the icon of St. Stephanos to our chapel iconography project please provide your donation to the church office. Thank you!

School Supply Drive

All donations will benefit the Ryer Avenue Elementary School in Bronx, NY. All supplies must be collected by August 30th. Please leave all donations outside the church office or school office.

We are in need of the following supplies for the children:

Plastic pencil cases, safety scissors, double pocket paper folders, 24 count crayon boxes, glue sticks, pencils and sharpeners, erasers. Monetary donations are welcome so that we may purchase supplies.

EORTOLOGION

Sunday, August 6 - Paraklesis Service	5:00 p.m.
Monday, August 7 - Paraklesis Service	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 8 - Paraklesis Service	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 9 - Paraklesis Service	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 10 - Paraklesis Service	7:00 p.m.
Friday, August 11 - Paraklesis Service	7:00 p.m.

Κυριακή, 6 Αυγούστου - Παρακλητικό Κανόνας	5μ.μ.
Δευτέρα, 7 Αυγούστου - Παρακλητικό Κανόνας	7μ.μ.
Τρίτη, 8 Αυγούστου - Παρακλητικό Κανόνας	7μ.μ.
Τετάρτη, 9 Αυγούστου - Παρακλητικό Κανόνας	7μ.μ.
Πέμπτη, 10 Αυγούστου - Παρακλητικό Κανόνας	7μ.μ.
Παρασκευή, 11 Αυγούστου - Παρακλητικό Κανόνας	7μ.μ.