

Vespers sung on Saturday 5th August 2023 (for Sunday 6th August) The Transfiguration of Our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 4

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Thy sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Tone 4

Before Thy Crucifixion, O Lord,
the mountain became as heaven,
and like a tabernacle the cloud spread itself out,
when Thou wast transfigured, and the Father bore witness to Thee.
Peter was present with James and John,
since they were to be with Thee at the time of Thy betrayal,
that, having seen Thy wondrous works,
they might not be afraid of Thy sufferings.//
Grant us to venerate Thy sufferings in peace, through Thy mercy!

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Repeat: Before Thy Crucifixion, O Lord ...

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Before Thy Crucifixion, O Lord,
Thou didst take Thy Disciples to a high mountain
and wast transfigured before them,
illuminating them with bright rays of Thy pow'r.
From love of man and in Thy sovereign might,
it was Thy desire to show them the splendour of Thy Resurrection.
In peace count us also worthy of this splendour, O God,//
in Thy mercy and Thy love for man!

For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Repeat: Before Thy Crucifixion, O Lord ...

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

The mountain that once was veiled in gloom and smoke,
is now holy and revered,
since Thy feet, O Lord, have stood upon it.
For by Thy dread Transfiguration,
the mystery hidden before the ages
has been made manifest in the last times to Peter, James, and John.
Unable to endure the shining of Thy face and the brilliance of Thy garments,
they fell to the ground upon their faces.
Seized with wonder and amazement, they saw Moses and Elijah
talking with Thee about the things that would befall Thee;
and a voice came in testimony from the Father saying:
"This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!//
It is He Who grants the world great mercy!"

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Repeat: The mountain that once was veiled in gloom and smoke ...

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

When Thou wast transfigured upon a high mountain, O Savior,
having with Thee the chief Disciples,
Thou didst shine forth in glorious majesty,
proving that those who excel in the height of their virtues
shall be made worthy of divine glory.
Moses and Elijah, talking with Christ,
showed that He is Lord of both the living and the dead,
the God Who spoke of old through the Law and the Prophets.
The voice of the Father testified to Him from the cloud of light, saying:
"Listen to Him, Who through the Cross has despoiled hell//
and has given the dead eternal life!"

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Repeat: When Thou wast transfigured upon a high mountain, O Savior,

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 6

Prefiguring Thy Resurrection, O Christ our God,
Thou didst take with Thee in Thine ascent of Mount Tabor
Thy three Disciples, Peter, James and John.
When Thou wast transfigured, O Savior,
Mount Tabor was covered with light.
Thy Disciples, O Word, threw themselves down upon the ground,
unable to gaze upon the form that none may see.
The Angels ministered in fear and trembling;
the heavens shook and the earth quaked,//
as they beheld on earth the Lord of Glory.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Reading from the Book of Exodus.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone and the law and commandments I wrote, that you may teach them." So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and they went up to the mountain of God. But he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them." Then Moses and Joshua went up the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of God descended on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. Then on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the Lord's glory was like a burning fire on the top of the mountain before the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up the mountain; and he was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. [Exodus 24:12-18]

The Reading from the Book of Exodus.

Thus the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Then he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Then Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you above all, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, reveal Yourself to me, that I may see You clearly and find grace in Your sight, and know this great nation is Your people." So He said, "I Myself will go before you and give you rest." Then he said to Him, "If You Yourself do not go up with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So both I and Your people shall be glorified beyond all the nations on the earth." The Lord then said to Moses, "I will also do this thing you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you above all." Moses replied, "Reveal Yourself to me." Then God said, "I will pass before you in My glory, and I will proclaim My name, the Lord, before you. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man can see My face and live." Moreover, the Lord said, "Here is a place by Me: you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai as the Lord commanded him. Now the Lord descended in the cloud; and He stood with him there, and he called upon the name of the Lord. Then the Lord passed before his face and proclaimed, "The Lord God, compassionate, merciful, longsuffering, abounding in mercy and true." So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the ground and worshiped. [Exodus 33:11-23; 34:4-6, 8]

The Reading from the Third Book of the Kingdoms.

In those days, Elijah came to Beersheba of Judah, where he left his servant. But Elijah himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat under a juniper tree. Then he lay down and slept under a tree. Unexpectedly, someone touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." Then Elijah looked, and there by his head was a cake made of wheat and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. Again the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is a great many days for you." So he arose, ate and drank; and he went with the strength of that food forty days and forty nights, as far as Mount Horeb. There he went into a cave and rested. Behold, the word of the Lord came to him and said to him, "Go out tomorrow and stand on the mountain before the Lord; and behold, the Lord will pass by, and before the Lord, a great and powerful wind will be rending the mountains and shattering the rocks; but the Lord will not be in the wind. After the wind, an earthquake, but the Lord will not be in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there will be a fire, but the Lord will not be in the fire. After the fire, there will be a sound of a gentle breeze, and the Lord will be there." So when Elijah heard this, he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Then the Lord said to him, "Go and return on your way to the desert of Damascus. And you shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah as prophet in your place." [3 Kingdoms 19:3-9, 11-13, 15-16]

APOSTICHA

Tone 1

He Who of old spoke through symbols to Moses on Mount Sinai saying: "I am He Who Is,"
was transfigured today upon Mount Tabor before the Disciples.
In His own person He showed them the nature of man
arrayed in the original beauty of the Image.
Calling Moses and Elijah to be witnesses of this surpassing grace,
He made them partakers of the gladness, //
foretelling His death on the Cross and His saving Resurrection.

V. The heavens are Thine, the earth also is Thine; the world and all that is in it, Thou hast founded them! (Ps. 88:11a)

David, the ancestor of God,
foresaw in the Spirit the sojourn with men of the only-begotten Son in the flesh,
and from afar, called the creation together to rejoice with him,
prophetically lifting up his voice to cry:
"Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in Thy Name!"
For Thou didst go up to this mountain with Thy Disciples and wast transfigured, O Christ,
making the image that had grown dark in Adam to shine once again like lightning,
and transforming it into the glory and splendour of Thine own Divinity.
Therefore we cry aloud to Thee: //
"O Lord and Creator of all things, glory to Thee!"

V. Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in Thy Name! (Ps. 88:12a)

When the chosen Apostles beheld upon the mountain of the Transfiguration
the overwhelming flood of Thy light,
O Christ Who hast no beginning,
and Thine unapproachable Divinity,
they were caught up in a divine trance.
The cloud of light shone around them on every side,
and they heard the voice of the Father
confirming the mystery of Thine incarnation,
that even after taking flesh,
Thou remainest the only-begotten Son //
and the Savior of the world!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 6

Today on Mount Tabor, O Lord,
Thou hast shown the glory of Thy divine form
to Thy chosen Disciples, Peter, James and John.
For they looked upon Thy garments that gleamed like the light
and at Thy face that shone more than the sun.
Unable to endure the vision of Thy brightness that none can bear,
they fell to the earth, powerless to gaze at the sight,
for they heard a voice that bore witness from above:
"This is My beloved Son //
Who has come into the world to save mankind!"

TROPARIA

Tone 7

Troparion of the Transfiguration

[Music on website / White Book page 118]

Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God,
revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it.
Let Thine everlasting Light shine upon us sinners!//
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Repeat: Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God ...

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Repeat: Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God ...