

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17: 5

Alleluia, alleluia! / This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: / listen to him. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 17: 1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

His face was shining like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents 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 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. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD / A

6 AUGUST 2023

DARKNESS TO LIGHT

There are moments in our lives when the pieces fall into place, moments in which we come to a clearer understanding of ourselves and the direction of our lives. As Jesus prepared to journey towards Jerusalem, he knows what lies before him, but the disciples will need a vision to sustain them on the road ahead. Peter, James, and John are privileged to glimpse the glory of Jesus and the voice from heaven that proclaims his identity as Son of God. They want to remain on the mountain, but now is the time to listen to Jesus' message and grow as disciples following him on the road. Learning to listen to him will not be easy. Fear and ambition will make it difficult for them to understand that he is the one who has come to offer his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). Those who profess to be his disciples must do the same.

Years later after the resurrection Peter reflects on the experience of the Transfiguration. He speaks of it as a moment in which he had been privileged to see the previously hidden majesty of Jesus. With the passing of the years this moment continued to act as a guarantee of the Lord's return, as a lamp that illuminates the dark. It was a beacon that gave him the courage to proclaim Jesus as saviour and ultimately to give his own life following the example of his master and friend.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Dan 7: 9-10, 13-14

A reading from the book of Daniel

His raiment was as white as snow.

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place
and one of great age 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 on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
A court was held and the books were opened.
I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages
became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

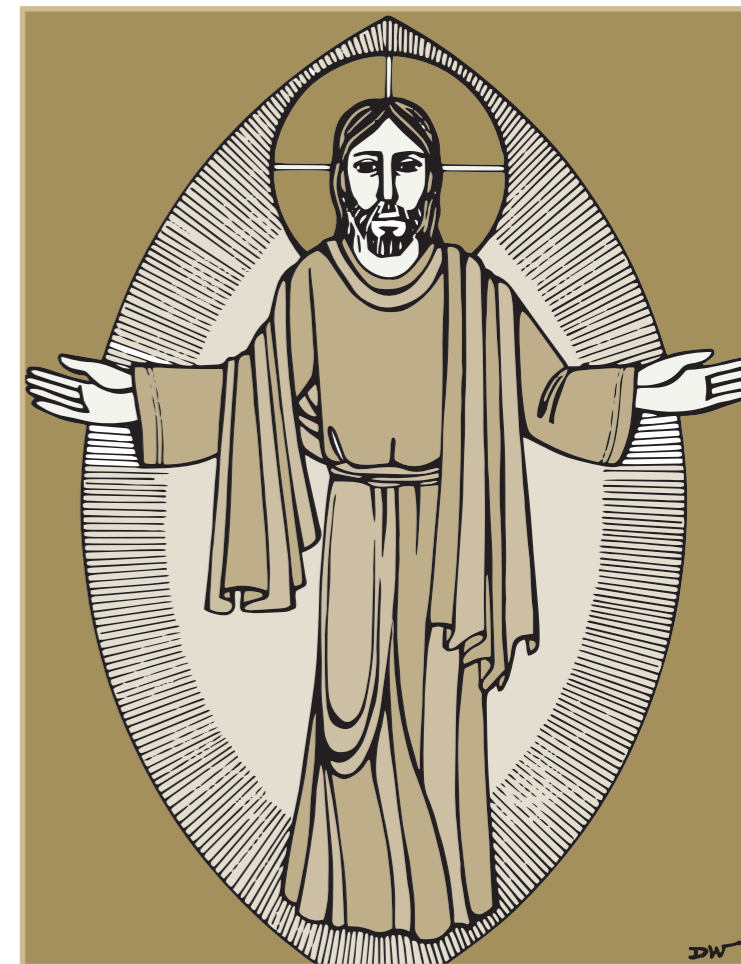
■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 96: 1-2, 5-6, 9. R. vv. 1, 9

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

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, / let all the coastlands be glad. / Cloud and darkness are his raiment; / his throne, justice and right. **R.**
2. The mountains melt like wax / before the Lord of all the earth. / The skies proclaim his justice; / all peoples see his glory. **R.**
3. For you indeed are the Lord / most high above all the earth / exalted far above all spirits. **R.**



SECOND READING

2 Pet 1: 16-19

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

We heard this voice from out of heaven.

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

■ **The word of the Lord.**