

August 6

Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ

GREAT VESPERS

Kathisma

Blessed is the man... is sung only if the feast falls on a Sunday or Monday

At Psalm 140

In Tone 4

8.

O Lord, when You were transfigured before being crucified,
Mount Tabor was made to resemble heaven;
for a cloud was extended as a canopy,
and the Father bore witness to You.
Peter, James, and John were present there,
the same three apostles who were to be with You
at the time of the betrayal of Judas,
so that, having seen You in glory,
they would not be dismayed at the time of Your suffering.
Likewise, O Lord, make us worthy to recognize You as our God
in the same sufferings You endured in Your great mercy,
and to adore You.

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6.

O Lord, as a preparation to Your crucifixion,
You led some of Your disciples to a high mountain
and became transfigured before them,
enlightening them with the light of Your glory.
In this way, You showed the reality of the resurrection
You are to grant to us in Your love for mankind
and in Your almighty power as God.
Make us worthy of this resurrection, O God
for You are gracious and the Lover of mankind.

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4.

O Lord, when You were transfigured on a high mountain
in the presence of Your foremost disciples,
You radiated with glory,
showing how those who lead an outstanding life of virtue
will be made worthy of the glory of heaven.
Elias and Moses, conversing with the Lord,
showed Him to be the Lord of the living and the dead,
God who spoke through the Law and the Prophets,
the same to whom the Father's voice bore witness
out of the bright cloud, saying:
"Hear Him, for it is He, who through His Cross despoiled Hades
and granted eternal life to the dead."

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2.

Indeed, O Lord, the mountain that had been dark with smoke
today becomes honourable and holy because You stood on it.
The mystery hidden from the beginning of the world
becomes manifest in Your transfiguration before Peter, James and John.
They fell with their faces to the ground,
unable as they were to bear the light of Your countenance
and the splendour of Your clothing.
A further marvel was the vision of Moses and Elias,
conversing with You on Your future,
and the voice of the Father bearing witness and saying:

“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!
He is the One who will convey great mercy upon the world.”

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In Tone 6, Glory... Now...

O Christ our God, when You willed to prefigure Your resurrection,
You chose three disciples, Peter, James, and John;
and You went up with them to Mount Tabor.
At the moment of Your Transfiguration, O Saviour,
the mountain was flooded with light,
and Your disciples fell with their faces to the ground;
for they could not bear the sight of Your countenance
upon which no one may gaze, O Word.
Angels attended with trembling and awe;
the heavens were afraid;
and the earth shook to its very foundations
when they saw the Lord of glory come upon the earth.

Readings

Exodus 24:12-18

Exodus 33:11-23; 34:4-6, 8

I Kings 19:3-9, 11-13, 15-16

At the Lytia

In Tone 2

O God of goodness, Your light has sanctified the whole universe,
and You were transfigured on the high mountain,
revealing Your power to Your disciples.
You have redeemed the world from sin.
Therefore, we cry out to You:
“O Lord of mercy, save our souls!”

You were transfigured in glory on Mount Tabor, O Christ our God,
and You showed Your disciples the glory of Your divinity.
Now also pour out the light of Your knowledge upon us
and, in Your goodness and Your love for all of us,
guide us in the way of Your divine commandments.

Christ, the light that shone before the sun,
dwelt on earth in a human form.
Wishing to fulfill the divine work of salvation before His Cross,
today He mystically reveals the image of the Trinity on Mount Tabor.
He took aside His three chosen disciples, Peter, James, and John;
and for a short time He concealed His incarnation.
He was transfigured before them,
manifesting the splendour of the original beauty.
By this He strengthened them in their faith;
yet He spared them from losing their life at the sight,
and so their eyes saw only as much as they could behold.
He also called upon Moses and Elias,
the most venerable of the prophets,
to witness to His divinity,
testifying that He is indeed the reflection of the Father,
the Lord of the living and the dead.
A cloud also enveloped them as a tent,
and the voice of the Father bore witness on high, saying:
"This is My beloved Son; hear Him!
I have begotten Him before the daystar in a virginal manner;
I have sent Him to save those baptized in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
those who confess in faith that the power of the divinity is one and indivisible."
O Christ our God, You love all mankind;
make us shine in the brightness of Your inaccessible glory;
and in Your supreme goodness,
make us worthy to inherit Your never-ending Kingdom.

In Tone 5, Glory...

Come, let us ascend the mountain of the Lord
and go into the house of our God.
Let us contemplate the glory of His Transfiguration,
the glory of the only-begotten Son of God the Father.
From His light, let us receive light;
and raised up by the Holy Spirit,
let us sing the praises of the consubstantial Trinity forever.

Now...

Moses who saw God, and Elias who was taken up in the flaming chariot,
contemplated You in the cloud, O Christ our God;
for You are the author of the Law and the fulfillment of the Prophets.
They were witnesses of Your Transfiguration.
With them make us worthy of that same brightness,
that we may sing Your praises forever, O Lord.

Aposticha

In Tone 1

He who mysteriously spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai
and said: "I Am Who Am,"
today manifests Himself to His disciples on Mount Tabor
and reveals through His person
that human nature was re-established in its original splendour.
As witnesses to this grace and partakers of this joy,
He raised up Moses and Elias,
the forerunners of the glorious and saving Resurrection
made possible by the Cross of Christ.

The heavens are Yours, the world is Yours. You founded the earth and all it holds.

When David, the forefather of the Lord,
foresaw in spirit Your coming in the flesh,
he invited the whole creation to rejoice,
crying out prophetically:
O Saviour, Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in Your name,
for indeed You ascended the mountain with Your disciples.
Through Your Transfiguration
You returned Adam's nature to its original splendour,
restoring its very elements to the glory and brilliance of Your divinity.
Therefore, we cry out to You:
O Creator of all, glory to You!

Tabor and Hermon shout with joy at Your name.

O Christ without a beginning,
when on the Mount of the Transfiguration,
Your disciples saw the Light that was Yours
and Your unapproachable divinity,
they were rapt in amazement and completely changed.
They were enrobed in a radiant cloud,
and they heard the Father's voice
confirming the mystery of Your incarnation;
for even after coming in the flesh,
You remained the only-begotten Son and the Saviour of all.

In Tone 6, Glory... Now...

O Lord, today on Mount Tabor,
You have manifested the glory of Your divinity
to Your chosen disciples, Peter, James, and John;
they saw Your clothing radiant as light
and Your face more brilliant than the sun.
Unable to bear Your overwhelming radiance or look upon You,

they fell to the ground
and heard a voice bearing witness from heaven:
“This is My beloved Son who came into the world to save His people.”

Troparion

In Tone 7

You were transfigured on the mount, O Christ God,* showing Your glory to Your disciples as much as they could bear.* Make Your eternal light shine* also on us who are sinners,* through the prayers of the Mother of God** O Giver of Light, glory to You! (*thrice*)