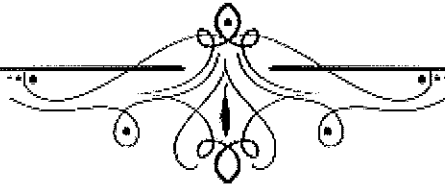


**Sunday, August 6, 2017**

Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ



**APOLYTIKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN 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.

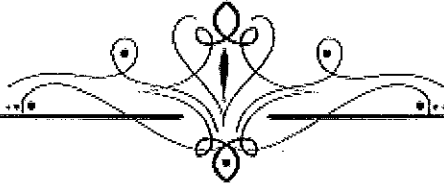
**THE EPISTLE**

*O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

**The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Peter.**

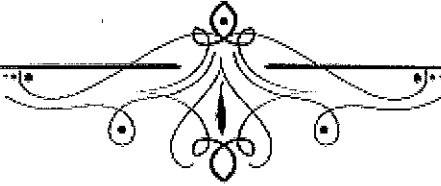
**(1: 10-19)**

Brethren, be the 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 surer. 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.



الاحد 6 آب، 2017

عيد تجلي ربنا يسوع المسيح



طروبارية عيد التجلي باللحن السابع

لما تجليت أيها المسيح الاله في الجبل أظهرت مجدك للتلاميذ حسبما استطاعوا فأشرق لنا نحن الخطاة نورك الأزلي بشفاعات والدة الاله يا مانح النور المجد لك

الرسالة

ما أعظم أعمالك يا ربّ كلها بحكمةٍ صنعت، باركي يا نفسي الرب.

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بطرس الرسول الثانية الجامعة (1: 10-19)

يا إخوة، اجتهدوا أن تجعلوا دعوتكم وانتخابكم ثابتين فإتكم إذا فعلتم ذلك لا تزلون أبداً. وهكذا ثمّنحون بسخاء أن تدخلوا ملكوت ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح الأبدي. لذلك لا أهمل تذكيركم دائماً بهذه الأمور وإن كنتم عالمين بها وراسخين في الحق الحاضر. وأرى من الحق أنّي، ما دمت في هذا المسكن، أنهضكم بالتذكير. فإني أعلم أنّ خلع مسكني قريب كما أعلن لي ربنا يسوع المسيح. وسأجتهد أن يكون لي بعد خروجي تذكّر هذه الأمور كلّ حين لأنّنا لم ننبع خرافات مصنّعة إذ أعلمناكم قوّة ربنا يسوع المسيح ومجيئه بل كنّا معانين جلاله لأنّه أخذ من الله الآب الكرامة والمجد إذ جاءه من المجد الفخيم صوتٌ يقول هذا هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سررت. وقد سمعنا نحن هذا الصوت آتياً من السماء حين كنّا معه في الجبل المقدّس. وعندنا أثبت من ذلك وهو كلام الأنبياء الذي تحسنون إذا أصغيتم إليه كأنّه كأنه مصباح يضيء في مكان مظلم إلى أن ينفجر النهار ويشرق كوكب الصبح في قلوبكم.

# **The Holy Gospel**

## **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 Elias, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if Thou wilt, I will make three booths here, one for Thee and one for Moses and one for Elias." 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; hear 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 risen from the dead."

**Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!**

## الإِنْجِيلُ الْمُقَدَّسُ

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ متى البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ  
(9:17)

في ذلك الزمان أخذ يسوع بطرس ويعقوب ويوحنا أخاه فأصعدهم إلى جبل عالٍ على انفراد وتجلّى قدامهم وأضاء وجهه كالشمس وصارت ثيابه بيضاء كالنور. وإذا موسى وإيليا تراءيا لهم يخاطبانه. فأجاب بطرس وقال ليسوع: يا ربّ حسنٌ أن نكون ههنا وإن شئتَ فلنصنع هنا ثلاث مظالّ واحدة لك وواحدة لموسى وواحدة لإيليا. وفيما هو يتكلّم إذا سحابة نيرة قد ظلّلتهم وصوت من السحابة يقول: هذا هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سرّرت فله اسمعوا. فلمّا سمع التلاميذ سقطوا على أوجّهم وخافوا جدًّا. فدنا يسوع إليهم ولمسهم قائلاً: قوموا، لا تخافوا. فرفعوا أعينهم فلم يروا أحداً إلاّ يسوع وحده. وفيما هم نازلون من الجبل أوصاهم يسوع قائلاً: لا تُعلموا أحداً بالرؤيا حتّى يقوم ابن البشر من بين الأموات.

المجد لك يا ربّ المجد لك!

## Announcements

### Upcoming Services

<b>Paraklesis to the Theotokos – لواءة الإله – (ابتهاال) براكليسي</b>		
	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> through Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> of August	7.00 pm
<b>Leave-Taking Transfiguration of Christ – وداع عيد التجلي الإلهي</b>		
Great Vespers	Saturday August 12 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm
Matins		8.45 am
Divine Liturgy	Sunday August 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am

### **Transfiguration of Christ by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh**

There are blessed or tragic moments when we can see a person revealed to us in a light with a depth, with an awesome beauty which we have never suspected before.

It happens when our eyes are open, at a moment of purity of heart; because it is not only God Himself Whom the pure in heart will see; it is also the divine image, the light shining in the darkness of a human soul, of the human life that we can see at moments when our heart becomes still, becomes transparent, becomes pure.

But there are also other moments when we can see a person whom we thought we have always known, in a light that is a revelation. It happens when someone is aglow with joy, with love, with a sense of worship and adoration. It happens also when a person is at the deepest point, the crucifying point of suffering, but when the suffering remains pure, when no hatred, no resentment, no bitterness, no evil is mixed to it, when pure suffering shines out, as it shone invisibly to many from the crucified Christ.

This can help us to understand what the Apostles saw when they were on the Mount of Transfiguration. They saw Christ in glory at a moment when His total surrender to the will of the Father, His final and ultimate acceptance of His own human destiny, became revealed to them. Moses and Elias, we are told, stood by Him; the one representing the Law and the other one representing the Prophets: both have proclaimed the time when salvation would come, when the Man of suffering will take upon Himself all the burdens of the world, when the Lamb of God slain before all ages would take upon Himself all the tragedy of this world. It was a moment when in His humanity Christ, in humble and triumphant surrender, gave Himself ultimately to the Cross.

Last week we heard Him say that the Son of God will be delivered in the hand of men, and they will crucify Him, but on the third day He will rise. At that moment it became imminent, it was a decisive point, and He shone with the glory of the

perfect, sacrificial, crucified love of the Holy Trinity, and the responsive love of Jesus the Man, as Saint Paul calls Him. The Apostles saw the shining, they saw the divine light streaming through the transparent flesh of Christ, falling on all the things around Him, touching rock and plant, and calling out of them a response of light. They alone did not understand, because in all the created world man alone has sinned and is blind. And yet, they were shown the mystery, and yet, they entered into that cloud which is the divine glory, that filled them with awe, with fear, but at the same time with such exulting joy and wonder!

Moses had entered that cloud and was allowed to speak to God as a friend speaks to a friend; he was allowed to see God passing by him, still without a name, still without a face, and now, they saw the face of God in the Incarnation. They saw His face and they saw His glory shining out of tragedy. What they perceived was the glory, what they perceived was the wonder of being there, in the glory of God, in the presence of Christ revealed to them in glory. They wanted to stay there forever, as we do at moments when something fills us with adoration, with worship, with awe, with unutterable joy, but Christ had told them that the time has come to go down into the valley, to leave the Mount of Transfiguration because this was the beginning of the way of the Cross, and He had to be merged into all that was tragic in human life. He brought them down into the valley to be confronted with the agony of the father whose child could not be cured, with the inability of the disciples to do anything for this child, with the expectation of the people who now could turn to no one — o n e but Him — that is where He brought them.

And we are told that He had chosen these three disciples because together, in their togetherness they held the three great virtues that make us capable of sharing with God the mystery of His incarnation, of His Divinity, of His crucifixion, to face His descent into hell after His death and to receive the news of His resurrection: the faith of Peter, the love of John, the righteousness of James.

There are moments when we also see something which is beyond us, and how much we wish we could stay, stay forever in this blissful condition; and it is not only because we are incapable of it that we are not allowed to stay in it, but because the Lord says, You are now on the Mount of Transfiguration, you have seen Christ ready to be crucified for the life of the world — go now together with Him, go now in His name, go now, and bring people to Him that they may live!

This is our vocation. May God give us faith, and the purity of heart that allows us to see God in every brother and sister of ours! Didn't one of the Desert Fathers say, He who has seen his brother has seen God'? — and serve one another with love sacrificial, with the exulting joy of giving our lives to one another as Christ gave His life for us. Amen.

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**The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH**

*Primate of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America*

**The Right Rev. Bishop ALEXANDER**

*Bishop of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York*

**The Very Rev. Father Ghattas Hajal**

*Archpriest and Dean of the Cathedral*

**The Rev. Father Nektarios Najjar**

*Assistant Pastor*