

divinity. The Father confirmed that this is His beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed the disciples as a bright cloud. Since in the person of Christ, the divine nature has been united with the human one, then the Lord Jesus is the Way that reveals God the Father to us and leads us, in the Holy Spirit, to Him. The Apostle Peter characterizes this journey as "an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ". In other words, it refers to man's entry into the life of the Holy Trinity, in which through Baptism, the Eucharist and the general spiritual struggle, we participate in from now on.

Let us pray that the uncreated light of the Transfiguration of Christ enters every person's being, who seeks it from his heart; so that all our inner darkness dissolves and we cry out to the light-giving God; "Lord, You illumine my darkness" and "may the light of Your face, be signed on us, O Lord, that in Him we may see the unapproachable light" (Prayer of the 1st Hour). Amen".

Archim. N.K

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 2023** *Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Peter's Second Universal Letter 1:10-19*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Matthew 17:1—9*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : *Grave Tone*

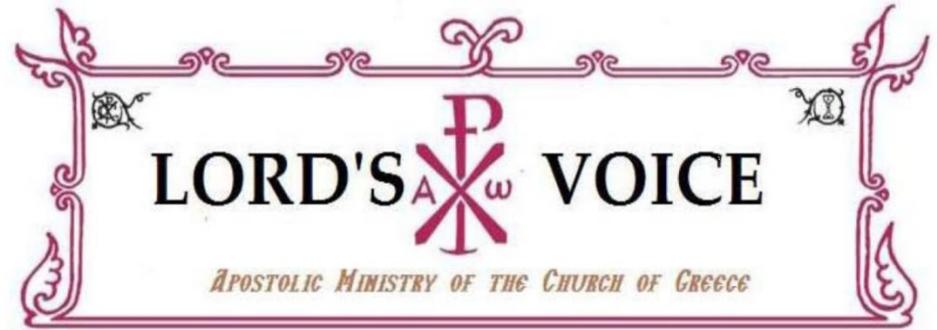
**EOTHINON** : *Eighth Eothinon*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 2023** **TENTH SUNDAY OF**

**MATTHEW** *Apodosis of the Transfiguration Maxymus the Confessor, Our Righteous Fathers Sergius, Stephanus, Castor and Palamonus. Dorotheus Abba of Gaza, Tikhon of Zaonsk.*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's First Letter to Corinthians 4:9-16*

**GOSPEL READING** : *Matthew 17:14—23*



71<sup>ST</sup> YEAR AUGUST 6 2024 PAMPHLET # 32 (3662)

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

The feast of the Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor is a magnificent Feast of the Lord, which reveals fundamental existential and saving truths for man. The Gospel and Epistle passage, the relevant homilies of the Fathers, the hymnography, and the iconography help the believer to experience its deeper meaning. They also help him to feel the awe and fear of the three eyewitness Apostles (Peter, James, John), but at the same time also, the majesty of the glory and the sweetness of the presence of Christ. This divine event is experienced by the entire Church. The people of God see the glory of Christ and is also transfigured with Him "from glory to glory, transfigured by the Lord's Spirit" (II Cor. 3:18), as the Apostle Paul points out.

### The glory of Christ

All the feasts of the Lord refer to the mysteries of Christ's presence on earth. They are held in remembrance and as a constant reliving of these. But the feast of the Transfiguration is the prelude to the glorious presence of Christ, and refers to the mystery of the future age. The disciples on Tabor saw the glory of

## EPISTLE ST. PETER'S 2<sup>ND</sup> 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.

God, temporarily and "as they could bear", as much as possible. Therefore, the Transfiguration is not only the assurance of the godhead, power, and glory of Christ, which was given to the disciples so that they could be supported in faith; since, in a short time, they would witness the arrest, the mockery, the Lord's passion and death on the cross.

The Transfiguration is, mainly, the foreshadowing of the life-giving Resurrection and Second Coming of the Lord, the manifestation of the uncreated light of Christ's divinity, His dominion over all the human race, the living and dead; therefore, there is the presence in it, not only of the preeminent disciples who are alive, but also of the prophets Moses and Elijah who had

reposed before. It is, furthermore, the revelation of the mystery of man. That is, the image of his theosis, as it will appear in the end times, at the end of the ages, which, however, the believer foretastes from this life, and the manifestation of his destiny; of the purpose of his existence, of his rebirth in Christ.

Very aptly, Fathers of the Church point out that the Lord was always in His divine glory and majesty, which nevertheless, was hidden from man's senses. Without the energy of God and the illumination of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for man to perceive the radiance, the brilliance of the everlasting light of Jesus Christ, which, as divine, is uncreated.

### The testimony of Peter about the sight of Christ's glory

The Apostle Peter in his Second Epistle, from which today's Epistle reading comes, exhorts the faithful to avoid the corruption of the world and to become partakers, communicants of the divine nature. To accompany their faith with a virtuous life and to not doubt the promise of the Lord's Second Coming, which is already reflected in the event of the Transfiguration of Christ and the prophetic announcements. And as an eyewitness to the wonderful event of the Transfiguration, he records his confession and testimony about the Divinity of Christ, of which he received a triumphant experience from the Resurrection of the Lord and the action of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

### Manifestation of the Holy Trinity

During the Transfiguration of Christ, the Triune God is revealed. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the incarnate Son of God, shone before the disciples and revealed the glory of His