

MORNING MEDITATION

Transfiguration of the Lord

Simplify your life by creating routines for the start and end of your day.

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Daniel describes four beasts that rose up out of the sea, the abode of evil and chaos. The beasts represented the Babylonian, Median, Persian and Greek kingdoms which have been oppressing the Jewish people. The beasts were condemned to the fire. In his vision, Daniel saw the son of man coming on the clouds with power, glory and dominion. He saw thousands ministering to the son of man. The powers of the “beasts”, the earthly kingdoms could not stand against the power of God whose kingdom is eternal.

The vision of Daniel invites us to hope for the day when all powers will be brought together under the one power of God, when all nations and peoples will serve the one true God of love and compassion.

Psalm 97

**The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice,
Let the many isles be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
Justice and judgments are the foundation of his throne.**

2 Peter 1:16-19

The early Christians had a difficult time living out their newfound faith in a hostile environment. The author of this letter writes about his own personal experience of Jesus in glory and splendor in an effort to support and strengthen the growing and struggling community of Christians. They had to struggle with many erroneous teachers as well as with the delay in the coming of Christ, which they believed was imminent.

The author shares these thoughts with his readers as the thoughts of Peter, their leader in faith. He invites his readers and us today to hang on to the hope of “transfigured glory”, to stand strong in the face of trials and difficulties and walk faithfully to the end.

Luke 9:28-36

In this excerpt from Luke, we read about the voice of God declaring Jesus as “my Son, my Chosen One” and calling all disciples to listen to him. In the presence of Jesus, transfigured in glory, Peter, James and John felt secure, happy, at home. They felt they had reached the end of their journey and they were not ready to move on - they just wanted to stay in their experience of comfort, joy, security and glory.

Rejoice in experiences of joy, success, greatness, wonder, glory, happiness - all of life's peak experiences and be grateful!

They had found a temporary serenity and security. But the journey of Jesus was not complete and the disciple's journey was not complete either. They had to leave this experience, come down the mountain and accept life with all its joys and sorrows, even accept the cross and eventual death.

They had to continue their journey into the unknown, uncertain and insecure future. They had to walk in mystery!

The journey of Jesus would take him to the cross and then to unending glory. His disciples must follow and travel a similar path. On their way, Jesus would serve as their map, their route, their guide and eventually their way - and the way, the journey and the end of the journey become one.

Be prepared to accept the inconveniences, suffering, pain, cross - all of life's struggles. Be strong and stand strong in faith during difficult times.

Saint of the day, August 6 - Transfiguration of the Lord and 203 other saints are remembered this day.

This feast remembers Jesus being transfigured and becoming radiant in glory upon a mountain. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36) describe it, and the Second Epistle of Peter also refers to it (2 Peter 1:16–18). It has also been hypothesized that the first chapter of the Gospel of John alludes to it John 1:14. In these accounts, Jesus and three of his apostles, Peter, James, and John, go to a mountain to pray. On the mountain, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. The disciples heard the voice of God declaring Jesus as “my Son, my Chosen One” and calling all disciples to listen to him.

Tradition names Mount Tabor as the site of the revelation. A church first raised there in the fourth century was dedicated on August 6. A feast in honor of the Transfiguration was celebrated in the Eastern Church from about that time. Western observance began in some localities about the eighth century. On July 22, 1456, Crusaders defeated the Turks at Belgrade. News of the victory reached Rome on August 6, and Pope Callistus III placed the feast on the Roman calendar the following year.

Many Christian traditions, including the Eastern Orthodox, Catholic Church and Anglican churches, commemorate the event in the Feast of the Transfiguration, a major festival.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

