

August 6

Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

(1st Class)

GREAT VESPERS

Stichera for Transfiguration (Tone 4)

- 8, 7. 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 Judas' betrayal; 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 these same sufferings You endured in Your great mercy, and to adore You!
- 6, 5. 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 a radiation of light and glory. In this way, You showed the reality of the Resurrection You are to grant us in Your love for men and Your almighty power as God. Make us worthy of this Resurrection, O God, for You are gracious and the Lover of Mankind!
- 4, 3. 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. Elijah 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, through His Cross, who despoiled Hades and granted eternal life to the dead!"

- 2, 1. Indeed, O Lord, the mountain that had been dark with smoke today becomes honorable 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, who fell with their faces to the ground, unable as they were to bear the light of Your countenance and the splendor of Your clothing. A further marvel was the vision of Moses and Elijah 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 on the world!"
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (Tone 6)

O Christ God, when You willed to prefigure Your Resurrection, You chose three disciples - Peter, James and John - and went up with them to Mount Tabor. At the moment of Your Transfiguration, O Savior, 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 look, 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.

Entrance. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of the day.

READINGS

1) *Exodus 24:12-18*

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and, while you are there, I will give you the stone tablets on which I have written the commandments intended for their instruction." So Moses set out with Joshua, his aide, and went up to the mountain of God. The elders, however, had been told by him, "Wait here for us until we return to you. Aaron and Hur are staying with you. If anyone has a complaint, let him refer the matter to them." After Moses had gone up, a cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled upon Mount Sinai. The cloud covered it for six days, and on the seventh day he called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD was seen as a consuming fire on the mountaintop. But Moses passed into the midst of the cloud as he went up on the mountain; and there he stayed for forty days and forty nights.

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

The LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one man speaks to another. Moses would then return to the camp, but his young assistant, Joshua, son of Nun, would not move out of the tent. Moses said to the LORD, "You, indeed, are telling me to lead this people on; but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'You are My intimate friend,' and also, 'You have found favor with Me.' Now, if I have found favor with You, do let me know Your ways so that, in knowing You, I may continue to find favor with You. Then, too, this nation is, after all, Your own people."

"I myself," the LORD answered, "will go along, to give you rest." Moses replied, "If You are not going Yourself, do not make us go up from here. For how can it be known that we, Your people and I, have found favor with You, except by

Your going with us? Then we, Your people and I, will be singled out from every other people on the earth." The LORD said to Moses, "This request, too, which you have just made, I will carry out, because you have found favor with Me and you are My intimate friend." Then Moses said, "Do let me see Your glory!" He answered, "I will make all My beauty pass before you, and in your presence I will pronounce My name, 'LORD'; I who show favors to whom I will, I who grant mercy to whom I will. But My face you cannot see, for no man sees Me and still lives. Here," continued the LORD, "is a place near me where you shall station yourself on the rock. When My glory passes I will set you in the hollow of the rock and will cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove My hand, so that you may see My back; but My face is not to be seen." Early the next morning Moses went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him. Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with him there and proclaimed his name, "LORD." Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity!" Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship.

3) *III Kings 19:3-9, 11-13, 15-16*

In those days, Elijah went to Beer-sheba of Judah. He left his servant there and went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. He looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water. After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the LORD came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" He got up, ate and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the

mountain of God, Horeb. There he came to a cave, where he took shelter. But the word of the LORD came to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by." A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave. And the Lord said to him, "Go, take the road back to the desert near Damascus, and you shall anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, as prophet to succeed you.

LETE (*Tone 2*)

O God of goodness, You sanctified the whole world with Your light when You were transfigured on a high mountain, showing Your disciples Your power that You might deliver the world from sin. Therefore, we cry out to You: "O compassionate Lord, save our souls!"

O Christ our God, You were transfigured on Mount Tabor, showing Your disciples the splendor of Your divinity: enlighten us also with the light of knowledge of You, and set us on the path of Your commandments, for You are good and the Lover of Mankind.

Christ, the Light that shone before the sun, went about the earth in the body; In keeping with His divine majesty, before His crucifixion, He fulfilled all things pertaining to His saving economy. Today, upon Tabor, He has mystically revealed the image of the Trinity. Taking aside His three chosen disciples Peter, James and John - He led them up the mountain. Concealing for a while the flesh He had assumed in the Incarnation, He was transfigured before them, manifesting the splendor of the original beauty, though not

in its full perfection. While strengthening their faith, He spared them, lest they lose their lives at the sight. Thus their bodily eyes saw only as much as they could endure. He also invited Moses and Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, to bear witness to His divinity, that He is indeed the Image of the divine Father, the Lord of the living and the dead. A cloud covered them like a tent, and from on high the voice of the Father resounded, testifying to Him and saying, "This is My beloved Son, whom I bore virginally from My bosom from before the morning star! It is He whom I have sent to save those baptized into the Father, the Son and the all-Holy Spirit, and who confess in faith that the power of the Divinity is one and undivided. Hear Him!" O Christ our God, Lover of Mankind, make us also shine in the light of Your inaccessible glory. In Your great goodness, make us worthy heirs of Your everlasting Kingdom.

v: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

(Tone 5)

Come, O faithful, let us go up to the Mountain of God, to the house of our God, that we may see the glory of His Transfiguration: the glory as of the only Son of the Father, receiving Light from Light. Let us rise through the Spirit and praise the consubstantial Trinity for ever and ever.

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Moses, who saw God, and Elijah, who rode through the heavens unconsumed in a chariot of fire, following You, in a cloud saw You, the Author of the Law and the Fulfillment of the Prophets. They were witnesses to Your Transfiguration. With them, count us also worthy of Your Light, O Lord, that we may sing to You throughout the ages.

APOSTICHA *(Tone 1)*

1. He who mysteriously spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai and said, "I am who I am," today manifests Himself to

His disciples on Mount Tabor and reveals through His Person that human nature is re-established in its original splendor. As witnesses to this grace and partakers of this joy, He raised up Moses and Elijah, the Forerunners of the glorious and saving Resurrection made possible by the Cross of Christ.

All: Yours is the Heaven and Yours the earth: You have founded the earth and made all it contains.

2. 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 Savior, Tabor and Herman shall rejoice in Your name;" for indeed, You ascended this mountain with Your disciples. Through Your Transfiguration, You returned Adam's nature to its original splendor, restoring its very elements to the glory and brilliance of Your divinity. Wherefore, we cry out to You, the Creator of All: "Glory to You!"

All: Tabor and Herman shall rejoice in Your name.

3. 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 brilliant cloud, and they heard the Father's voice confirming the mystery of Your Incarnation; for even after coming in the flesh, You remained the onlybegotten Son and the Savior of mankind.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (Tone 6)

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 to look upon You, they fell to the ground and heard a voice bearing witness from Heaven: "This is My beloved Son, who came to the world to save mankind."

TROPARION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (*Tone 7*) [3 times]

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, showing Your Disciples as much of Your glory as they could hold. Let Your eternal light shine also upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Giver of light, glory to you!