

## GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 9:2-9

The event of the Transfiguration is something of a mystery. For those who had eyes to see, Jesus showed the power of the kingdom, Jesus showed Himself in His power in the kingdom. The Apostles partially understood but mostly did not. (This is a feature of the Gospel of Mark.) In their ignorance and fear they ask to keep everyone on the mountain. This came up again for Peter when he denied that Jesus was going to the cross. The moment is overwhelming, but it did not last. Jesus had work to do, and an appointment with His death on the cross that could not be put off.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ Almighty God, Lawgiver and Redeemer of the human race, we come before You in awe and reverence. Your laws have saved humanity from anarchy and chaos; Your statutes help preserve our existence on this Earth. For preserving Your precepts through Moses, Elijah, and Your Son Jesus Christ, we give You most hearty thanks.

We confess that, although You have made Your will known through the Prophets and Apostles and have preserved it to the present day, we have not sufficiently treasured Your Law and Gospel. We have transgressed Your Law and neglected many opportunities to support the proclamation of the Gospel. We have been guilty at times of doubting the divine revelation of Your Word. We have often given our own interpretation before searching Your Word for clarification. We have had itching ears, listening for new doctrines, the commandments of men. For our lack of careful concern in determining Your will, forgive us, O Lord.

Through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ You have revealed Your Word in the flesh. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may hear Him speaking to us in Your Word. Give us the courage to hold high the light of Your Word to those who sit in darkness, and bless the hearts of those who hear it.

Take our sickness, pain, wounds, and hurt; take our disappointment, defeat, and despair; take our sorrow and mourning; take our selfishness and envy; take our hate and fear; take all these, O Father, and transform them through Jesus, into noble impulses, pure motives, kind thoughts, constructive deeds, high courage, and true faith.

Let the light of Your truth shine all in authority over us that they may be turned toward You and acting in Your will, work for the ends of peace.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Accept our thanks for permitting us to bask in the light of Your truth, and lead us one day into the presence of Him Who is this world's Light. In the Most Holy name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, we pray.

© Amen.

## TRANSFIGURATION

### Chant Tone



### Introit

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship  
at His holy —mountain;\*  
for the Lord our God is —holy!

The Lord reigns; let the peoples  
—tremble!\*

He sits enthroned upon the  
cherubim; let the —Earth quake!

The Lord is great in —Zion;\*

He is exalted over all the —peoples.  
Let them praise Your great and  
awesome name!\*

Ho | ly is He!

The King in His might loves —justice.\*  
You have established equity; You  
have executed justice and  
righteousness in —Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God; worship at His  
—footstool!\*  
Ho | ly is He!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy —Spirit;  
as it was in the be —ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. —Amen.

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at  
His holy —mountain;\*  
for the Lord our God is —holy!

(Antiphon, Psalm 99:9;  
Psalm 99:1-5)

### Collect of the Day

O God, in the glorious Transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the king in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in Heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

### Gradual

Praise the Lord, all —nations!\*

Extol Him, all —peoples!

For great is His | Love toward us,\*

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for —ever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due His name;\*

bring an offering and come in | to His courts!

(Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** O God and Father, in Jesus you made the Godhead shine through the humanity. Let Your Holy Spirit make our hearts His dwelling and transform our weak, sinful lives into the radiance of grace that flows from You. Transform our vision, our understanding, our judgments, even our whole person to reflect the mind of Christ. In Your Word give us an ever renewing faith in the doctrine of Your Son, a readiness to believe His promise and a willingness to follow His commands. Blessed are all who believe, for they shall know the power of His Resurrection and shall be changed from glory into glory. We ask this all in the power of Christ. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE TRANSFIGURATION WAS A TIME OF WONDER AND FEAR FOR THE APOSTLES.** Through the words and actions of Jesus, the Apostles had come to understand that He was the Christ, the Messiah, the Only-Begotten Son of God. Being confronted by the display of the evidence of His Divinity, and being confronted with Jesus' Divinity glowing within the confines of His flesh, was frightening indeed. The Divinity of Jesus has been disputed through the ages, yet it is through the Divinity that we are included in what His humanity accomplished. God cannot be contained in place or local. He is the God of all who have been called out to live in the Light. (If God, or the glory of God in Jesus Christ, was contained in a shelter on the mountain we would never have come to know of salvation. Jesus and His glory are presented to all. It is the work of the church to ensure that His glory is not contained in this building, but presented to all the people of the world.)

#### THEME OF THE DAY:

The Glory of God

#### INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 99:9;) Psalm 99:1-5

Psalm 99 (an unattributed Psalm) is slightly unusual in tone. Most of the Psalms look forward to the time of the Epiphany of the Messiah and the wonder of the Gospel. This Psalm looks back to the Epiphany of God's glory and grace in the Old Testament and especially as it came through Moses. Psalm 99 speaks of the wonder of the worship in the Tabernacle when God proclaimed His presence as a cloud (a statement from the, not used, verse 7.) We use this Psalm, to remember God as the pillar of fire (the light shining in our darkness.) The glory of God is always the light that shines in the dark places of our sin and brings us to His light, the light of the Gospel.

#### COLLECT

The Collect mentions Moses and Elijah because they met with Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration. We ask to be coheirs with all the redeemed in the wonder of the work and person of Jesus.

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—2 Kings 2:1-12

Elijah's ministry was about to end with his translation (or ascent) into Heaven in a whirlwind. He would not undergo death, but was to be transported immediately to the heavenly realm. Elisha was permitted to follow Elijah, while others were not. Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind (the song notwithstanding) and the chariots and horsemen mentioned by Elisha were (as in Daniel and Hosea) a representation of God before him. Elisha is given the "job" of main prophet. Essentially, this explains how it is that Elijah was with Jesus in the Transfiguration.

#### GRADUAL—Psalm 117, 96:8

We used Psalm 117 and verse 8 of Psalm 96 for our Epiphany worship because we who are gentiles in the kingdom, praise God for His perfect fulfillment of all things in Heaven and on Earth.

#### EPISTLE LESSON—2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6

Paul declared Christ's glory as reflected on those who least perceived it themselves. The Corinthian congregation was famous for the problems they gave him. Nevertheless, it was Paul's perception of how people reflect Christ's glory that gave him the boldness to continue his ministry with them. Paul focused on the transformed Christ and the transformation that happens in us as we are made over into the people who look like Jesus. Christians don't show their glory in Christ. We have a lack of faith that the Spirit lives in us. Otherwise we would always shine in every way with the wonder of God Who lives in us through the work of Jesus Christ who made us over into His brothers and sisters.