

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

The Reverend Father Klaus Kühne, Anglican Parish of St Andrew, Mondeor/Suideroord

In the name + of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The glorious Transfiguration of Messiah Jesus, when his face shone like the sun, and his clothing was white as snow, is also a feast of the Holy Trinity. On the mountain, God the Father spoke from heaven; Jesus, God incarnate, was transfigured in the presence of three disciples, and God the Holy Spirit was in the concealing cloud; the same sign of the divine presence Moses experienced on another mountain, centuries previously. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the prophets, respectively. In religious and spiritual terms, a true A-list gathering of supreme importance.

The Transfiguration is one of the five major events in Jesus' earthly life - the others being his Baptism, Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension. Later, when the Apostles pondered all these events together, they would understand more clearly why and how God chose to do what He did at the Transfiguration.

The Transfiguration, an unforgettable experience, was meant to encourage and fortify the Apostles. They were wrestling with Jesus' recent prediction of His passion and death, which was not something they wanted to know about. They themselves had first to be transformed in more ways than one before they could understand matters more clearly.

Today, secular society correctly challenges us to oppose racism and intolerance on all fronts – while at the same time ignoring what Jesus taught as if the Gospel had never challenged human behaviour. Consequently, by appealing only to man's better nature while excluding the spiritual, certain issues are driven to almost ludicrous extremes by some. Transgender people for example (who claim a gender identity different from the sex they were assigned on their birth certificate) say the sex they were assigned at birth and their own internal gender identity, do not match. Most transgender people seek to bring their bodies into alignment with their gender identity. This is called transition.

The core of this debate is about the necessity for change in order to be fully human.

Christians have always proclaimed the need for transformation in totality - body, mind, and soul. Believing that God loves us too much to leave us as He found us and wants to see us transformed - to become more like His Son. In fact, if we encounter Jesus and nothing happens, and nothing changes in our core being, we are really to be profoundly pitied.

In The Transfiguration, Jesus is revealed as the connecting point and bridge between heaven and earth, it is He who makes this transformation possible.

Colossians 2:9 tells us that *“in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,”* which is why Jesus could say to Philip, *“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”* (John 14:9). Authentic transformation begins and ends with God, not with our human nature or desires - as Saint John reminds us: *“But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God - children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God.”*

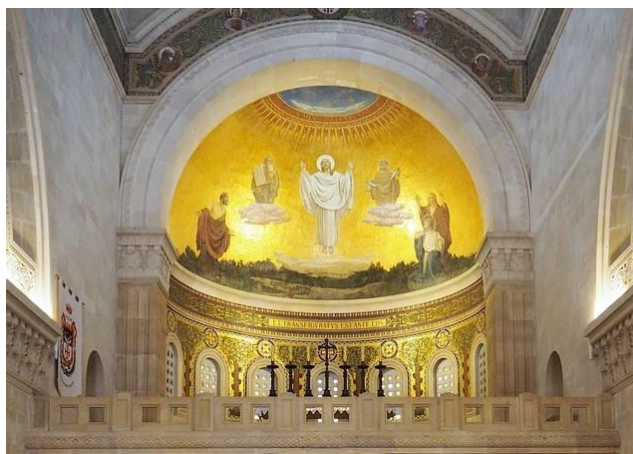
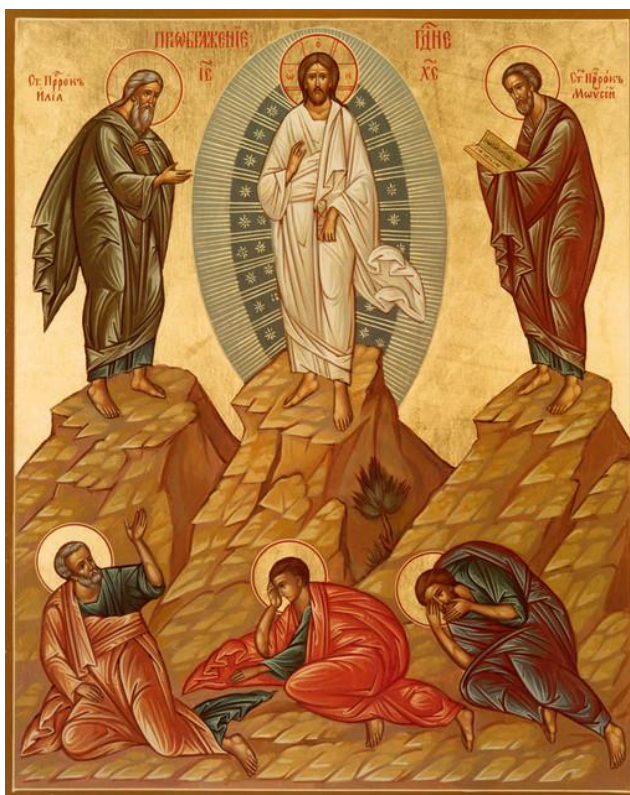
There then is the key to your transformation from sinner to redeemed sinner; from being defined by the flesh to being defined by your relationship with the Lord Jesus: *“...born of God.”*

Does the world see the reality of the new birth in your life and mine?

The Transfiguration is a promise of what is to come in God's heavenly kingdom; then we will understand all things and perfectly know our Father's love, grace, mercy and compassion.

The Apostles later understood, that before God's salvation could come into full effect, there first had to be the passion and the cross. No cheap salvation based on race, gender or ethnicity, no posturing religiosity, no striving for doctrinal or ceremonial purity to try and impress God. Just Jesus who gave up everything so that we might have a full share in what God had planned for us since before time began.

In the name + of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Inside the church of the Transfiguration, Mt Tabor.

SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST
THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS



Philippians 2:8-12

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*“Almighty God, who hast taught us that in the Name of Jesus alone is salvation ;
grant that Thy faithful people, ever glorifying His Name,
known to all the world; Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Mercifully
May make Thy salvation
Amen.”*

