

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You bring light to those in darkness:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glorify to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father

have mercy on us;

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen



OPENING PRAYER

O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of the Fathers and wonderfully prefigured our full adoption to sonship, grant, we pray, to your servants, that, listening to the voice of your beloved Son, we may merit to become coheirs with him. Who lives and reigns with you

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Daniel 7:9 - 10.13 - 14*

A reading from the prophet Daniel

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place and one of great age took his seat.

His robe was white as snow, the hair of his head as pure as wool.

His throne was a blaze of flames, its wheels were a burning fire.

A stream of fire poured out, issuing from his presence.

A thousand waited on him, ten thousand times ten thousand before him.

A court was held and the books were opened.

I gazed into the visions of the night.

And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,



one like a son of man.

He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence.

On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship,

and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants.

His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps. 96:1*

R. The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, let all the coastlands be glad. Cloud and darkness are his raiment; his throne, justice and right. **[R]**

2. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory. **[R]**

3. For you indeed are the Lord most high above all the earth exalted far above all spirits. **[R]**

SECOND READING *2 Peter 1:16 - 19*

A reading from the second letter of Peter

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! This is my Son, the Beloved, he enjoys my favour; listen to him. Alleluia

GOSPEL *Matthew 17: 1-9*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus, 'Lord,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a



focus on sunday

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 6th August 2023

At every moment of our lives God is caring for us. He knows our hopes and our fears, our joys and our worries. When we feel anxious he is close to us, saying, 'I will never forget you.'

'This is my Son, the Beloved....

Listen to him.'



We are told that Jesus took three disciples up a high mountain where they could be alone. Already there's an intimation of mystery. Jesus was surrounded by mystery. When we enter a church, whether for Mass or otherwise, we enter a place of mystery, wrapped in it as if in a blanket. The poet William Wordsworth, in his long poem The Prelude spoke of such a mysterious experience when he crossed the Alps. God seems overwhelmingly present at certain vantage points in nature. A kind of rapture in a horizon beyond our knowing. We need to be touched by such moments as we go through life.

"This is my Son, the Beloved... Listen to him!" Talking comes to us more easily than listening despite that we have two ears and only one tongue! And Bob Dylan asked "How many ears must one man have before he can hear people cry? The experts say there's a difference between hearing and listening: hearing informs, listening transforms. How keenly do we listen to the cry of those who are in need of help? While sacred scripture doesn't distinguish between hearing and listening we can be sure that 'listening' is meant whenever we are told in the bible to hear God's word. Jesus came from God to transform us by his message. Listening involves mind, heart and conscience, and has a way of making us stop and think. How often have we allowed the cry of the poor to change us?

Fr. Joe Walsh