

EYEWITNESS TO HIS GLORY

[Article from Vestal Publishing]

As our Lord's public ministry was coming to an end, He found Himself making that final journey to Jerusalem to confront His destiny. Before His suffering and ultimate death on the Cross, Jesus wanted to give His Apostles a glimpse of His Divinity, so that they might be able to better endure the dark days that would lie ahead. He ordered Peter, James and John to accompany Him on a rugged climb to the peak of Mount Tabor. Here He would be "changed" before their very eyes, with "...His face shining as the sun and His garments becoming white as snow." The 3 Apostles would also see a vision of Moses and Elijah of the Old Testament appearing with the transfigured Christ, causing Peter to cry out: "Lord, it is good for us to be here!" (Matthew 17:4) In an instant, however, this miraculous event was over, and Christ and His faithful followers had to leave this radiant setting behind and embark along the rugged road to Golgotha. It would be a while before Peter and the others would comprehend the magnitude of what they had been privileged to see. Truly, they had been "eyewitnesses" to the glory of God, as Peter would write about later in one of his epistles.

Our Lord's Transfiguration should serve to remind us that we, too, are "eyewitnesses" to God's glory. We repeatedly see how He touches the lives of all of us—how bestows His many blessings upon us and answers our prayers. We see His love for us constantly. When we are faithful, great things are revealed to us—just as they were to Peter, James and John on Mount Tabor. Yes, it is good for us to be here in our own Christian communities as we strive to further the growth of the Kingdom of God on earth. If our efforts are sincere, rest assured that we will, one day, bask in the Light of Christ forever in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



August 5, 2018

10th Sunday of Matthew

930 Lunalilo Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 521-7220 www.greekorthodoxhawaii.org
Office: office@greekorthodoxhawaii.org
Fr. Alexander Leong: fralexanderleong@yahoo.com

August 5, 2018

10th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Eustynios the Martyr of Antioch

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Tu lithu sfragisthendos (Hymn of the Day)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews where the soldiers were guarding Your most pure Body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. Wherefore the powers of heaven acclaimed You, o Giver of life. Glory to Your Resurrection O Christ. Glory to Your Kingdom. Glory to Your providence, You Who alone loves mankind.

Hristu tin Metamorfozin (Transfiguration Forefeast) Tone 4

*O Faithful, prepare for the Transfiguration of Christ, * and joyously celebrate as we observe on this day * the Forefeast, and cry aloud: * Coming is the day of the divine exultation. * The Master is ascending the holy mountain of Tabor, * in order to shine with the beauty of His divinity.* (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Tu Stavru su ton tipon (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.

Kontakion Tone 4

En ti thia simeron

*On this day of Christ's divine Transfiguration * human nature in advance splendidly shines with light divine, * and with great joy we all cry aloud, "Christ is transfigured in glory and saves us all."* (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

Today

✠ SUN, 8/5– 10th Sunday of Matthew; Sunday School Meeting 12 p.m.; Dance Group Meeting 2 p.m.

This Week

- ✠ MON, 8/6– Transfiguration of our Lord: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- ✠ TUE, 8/7– Paraklesis (Supplications to the Theotokos) 6:30 p.m.
- ✠ THU, 8/9– Parish Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- ✠ FRI, 8/10– Paraklesis (Supplications to the Theotokos) 6:30 p.m.
- ✠ SUN, 8/12– 11th Sunday of Matthew;

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Let us be satisfied simply with what sustains our present life, not with what pampers it. Let us pray to God for this, as we have been taught, so that we may keep our souls unenslaved and absolutely free from domination by any of the visible things loved for the sake of the body. Let us show that we eat for the sake of living, and not be guilty of living for the sake of eating. The first is a sign of intelligence, the second proof of its absence."

~St. Maximos the Confessor

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.