

## 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 3, 2014

8th Sunday of Matthew

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Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*Katelas to Stavro* (Hymn of the Day) Tone 7

*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 you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.*

Kontakion Tone 7

*Epi tu orus metemorfothis*  
*Upon the mountain were You transfigured, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they were able, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified they might understand that Your Passion was deliberate, and declare to the world that in truth You are the Father's radiance.*

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

BRETHREN, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Gospel Reading Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into

the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

**Announcements**

Today

✘ SUN, 8/3– *8th Sunday of Matthew*

This Week

- ✘ MON, 8/4– *Paraklesis (Supplications to the Theotokos) 6:30 pm.*
- ✘ TUE, 8/5– *Great Vespers 6:30 pm.*
- ✘ WED, 8/6– *Transfiguration of our Lord: Orthros 8:30 am; Divine Liturgy 9:30 am*
- ✘ FRI, 8/8– *Paraklesis (Supplications to the Theotokos) 6:30 pm.*
- ✘ SUN, 8/10– *9th Sunday of Matthew*

**Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers**

*“Christ has become man by the Virgin, in order that by the same way in which the disobedience caused by the serpent took its beginning, by this way should it also take its destruction. For Eve, being a virgin and incorrupt, conceived the word spoken of the serpent, and brought forth disobedience and death. But Mary the Virgin receiving faith and grace, when the angel Gabriel brought her the good news answered: ‘Be it unto me according to Your word.’”*

~Justin Martyr

*“The Theotokos (Mother of God) is the ‘ladder in the heavens’ by which God came down, the ‘bridge leading men from earth to heaven,’ the ‘sea which drowned the Pharaoh,’ the rock ‘which gushed forth water and quenched the spiritual thirst of the faithful,’ the ‘pillar of fire leading those lost in the wilderness’ and the ‘sign of the promised land which flows with milk and honey.’”*

~St. Romanos the Melodist

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**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.*