

EYEWITNESS TO HIS GLORY

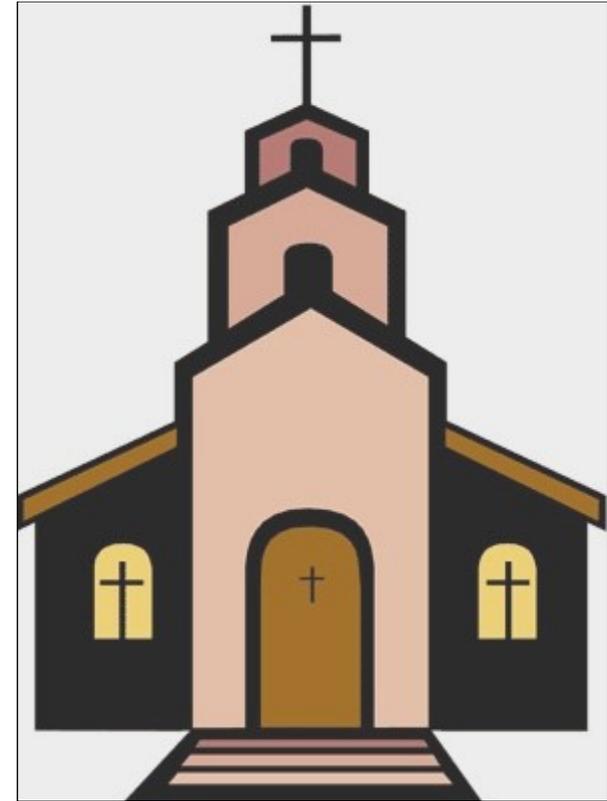
[Article from Vestal Publishing]

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 6, 2017

Transfiguration of our Lord

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

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Commemoration of: The Transfiguration of our Lord

2nd Antiphon

Soson imas Ie Theu, o en to ori to Thavor metamorfothis. Psalontas Si, Alliluia Save us, O Son of God, who were transfigured in glory on Mt. Tabor. we sing to You, Alleluia. (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Small Entrance

For with You is the fountain of life; O Lord, in Your light we shall see light. Save us, O Son of God, who were transfigured in glory on Mt. Tabor. We sing to You, Alleluia. (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Epi tu Orus (Hymn of the Day) Tone 7
You were transfigured upon the mountain, O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your glory as much as they could bear. Do also in us, sinners though we may be, shine Your everlasting light, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of light. Glory to You. (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Kontakion Tone 7

Epi tu Orus
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. (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Epistle Reading 2 Peter 1:10-19

BRETHREN, be more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Gospel Reading Matthew 17:1-9

At that time, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone

like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Announcements

Today

✦ SUN, 8/6– *Transfiguration of our Lord; Important Dance Group Meeting 11:30 in Social Hall Enclosure for Dancers & Parents of Dancers*

This Week

- ✦ MON, 8/7– *Supplications to the Theotokos 6:30 p.m. (Com. Forms in Narthex)*
- ✦ TUE, 8/8– *Supplications to the Theotokos 6:30 p.m.* “ “
- ✦ THU, 8/10– *Parish Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.*
- ✦ FRI, 8/11– *Supplications to the Theotokos 6:30 p.m.* “ “
- ✦ SUN, 8/13– *10th Sunday of Matthew*

- ⇒ The 2017 Greek Festival on August 26-27 at McCoy Pavilion is fast approaching. If you have not volunteered to help out, please do so right away by seeing Austin or Anita Higashi (HoloholoMom@gmail.com). Please invite friends, family, even co-workers to help out.
- ⇒ Greek Festival posters are available in the Social Hall after church or the office. We encourage everyone to take a few and put them up in their neighborhoods.
- ⇒ The festival is a massive undertaking and while we appreciate the many that volunteer for the two festival days, there is a lot of work to be done on Friday, August 25th and Monday, August 28th. If you can spare the time on those days please contact Austin at 636-5651 or Info@GreekFestivalHawaii.com. For tickets, see Larissa Seneres.

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.