

The Living Word

Transfiguration

6 August 2023

First Reading Dn 7:9-10. 13-14

His raiment was as white as snow.

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 thousand waited on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood
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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 9. R. vv.1. 9.

**(R.) The Lord is king, the most high
over 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 Pt 1:16-19

We heard this voice from out of heaven.

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.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

**This is my Son, my beloved,
in whom is all my delight:
listen to him.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 17:1-9

His face was shining like the sun.

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 bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the midst of Ordinary Time we are invited to behold the transfiguration of Christ. By some horrible coincidence, we recall Christ's brilliance on the day that the world marks another cosmic event, its birth into the atomic age at Hiroshima. The paradox of these events should not be lost on us. The white light that shone from Christ was a mere suggestion of the divine splendour that is beyond human comprehension; the flashing light from the atomic explosion was an omen of the destructive force that is within human grasp. It is imperative that the horror of the latter be brought under the control of the glory of the former.

The transfiguration was a moment in time when Jesus' divine glory broke through his humanity and shone with a brilliance that was blinding. We sing of this glory time and again in the psalms. Yet when it really appears we can hardly believe it ourselves. The readings outline three different moments when this glory was revealed. The first was reported by the visionary in the book of Daniel. The second moment was the scene of the transfiguration. The third is hidden in the resurrection testimony of the author of the Letter of Peter.

We are the ones who today possess the prophetic message; we are the present day eyewitnesses of Christ's majesty. We too have moments when we might behold his glory and hear the voice proclaiming his identity, but we need eyes of faith and ears that are open.

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Mary MacKillop was born in Fitzroy, Melbourne, in 1842, the eldest child of Scottish immigrants. In 1861 she moved to the small town of Penola in South Australia, where she met Fr Julian Tenison Woods. Together they established Australia's first free Catholic school. In 1866 she co-founded Australia's first religious order, the Sisters of St Joseph, and took a vow of poverty. Soon there were 17 schools under her care, but Mary's refusal to abide by the rules of the Bishop in Adelaide led to her excommunication from the church. She was accepted back a year later and eventually shown respect by the Bishops for her work with the poor. Mary was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995, as a result of a woman who was cured of leukaemia in 1961 after a group offered prayers to Sister Mary. She was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI on 17 October 2010 and is now known as St Mary of the Cross.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

alone	high	shelters
clothes	Moses	Son
cloud	mountain	teacher
frightened	Peter	three

P G L F K J I J Z X Z P H V E T Z
D I K N U N M L Z H J S N B O Q V
R G M H X R X O M S D H O M W N O
E Y Q M X D C A S U X E S M H N I
H V Y L R D U L R E X L F N C V E
T K T H R E E O M U S T A D I C J
Y K N N I A T N U O M E I A L I E
C Y O E O J H E S N Y R X D P F Q
H L C K N F T M U V Z S E X D K A
G F O E Y Z D Y M E A N N Y C L C
I K P N F P K A M U E N J K L R L
H H R V H A M Y U T T D Q U E S O
B D E W Q R S E H T O L C H S P U
I B R E T E P G C W N T C P T O D
T L R K F F I R Y S R A O N W Z L
L X K H T R I M S Z E O V Q Z M Z
R J A E F X P I X T N R G O E V F

By using the words below, can you work out what the voice from the cloud said to the apostles?

**SON
BELOVED
LISTEN
HIM
IS
PLEASED
AM
SAYS
TO**

