

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN August 06th, 2023
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD



Icon of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

Prokeimenon. Mode 4

Psalm 103.24,1

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The reading is from St. Peter's Second Universal Letter 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.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

Πέτρου β' 1:10-19 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, σπουδάσατε βεβαίαν ὑμῶν τὴν κλῆσιν καὶ ἐκλογὴν ποιεῖσθαι· ταῦτα γὰρ ποιοῦντες οὐ μὴ πταίσητέ ποτε· οὕτως γὰρ πλουσίως ἐπιχορηγηθήσεται ὑμῖν ἡ εἰσοδος εἰς τὴν αἰώνιον βασιλείαν τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν καὶ σωτῆρος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ οὐκ ἀμελήσω ἀεὶ ὑμᾶς ὑπομιμνήσκειν περὶ τούτων, καίτερ εἰδότας, καὶ ἐστηριγμένους ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ ἀληθείᾳ. Δίκαιον δὲ ἡγοῦμαι, ἐφ' ὅσον εἰμι ἐν τούτῳ τῷ σκηνώματι, διεγείρειν ὑμᾶς ἐν ὑπομνήσει· εἰδὼς ὅτι ταχινὴ ἐστὶν ἡ ἀπόθεσις τοῦ σκηνώματός μου, καθὼς καὶ ὁ κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς ἐδήλωσέν μοι. Σπουδάσω δὲ καὶ ἐκάστοτε ἔχειν ὑμᾶς μετὰ τὴν ἐμὴν ἔξοδον τὴν τούτων μνήμην ποιεῖσθαι. Οὐ γὰρ σεσοφισμένοις μύθοις ἐξακολουθήσαντες ἐγνωρίσαμεν ὑμῖν τὴν τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ δύναμιν καὶ παρουσίαν, ἀλλ' ἐπόπται γενηθέντες τῆς ἐκείνου μεγαλειότητος. Λαβὼν γὰρ παρὰ θεοῦ πατρὸς τιμὴν καὶ δόξαν, φωνῆς ἐνεχθείσης αὐτῷ τοιαῦδε ὑπὸ τῆς μεγαλοπρεποῦς δόξης, Οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, εἰς ὃν ἐγὼ εὐδόκησα· καὶ ταύτην τὴν φωνὴν ἡμεῖς ἠκούσαμεν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ ἐνεχθεῖσαν, σὺν αὐτῷ ὄντες ἐν τῷ ὄρει τῷ ἁγίῳ. Καὶ ἔχομεν βεβαιότερον τὸν προφητικὸν λόγον, ᾧ καλῶς ποιεῖτε προσέχοντες, ὡς λύχνῳ φαίνοντι ἐν ἀύχμηρῷ τόπῳ, ἕως οὗ ἡμέρα διαυγάσῃ, καὶ φωσφόρος ἀνατείλῃ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν.

The Gospel According to 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."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραλαμβάνει ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὸν Πέτρον καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀναφέρει αὐτοὺς εἰς ὄρος ὑψηλὸν κατ' ἰδίαν· καὶ μετεμορφώθη ἔμπροσθεν αὐτῶν, καὶ ἔλαμψε τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ὡς ὁ ἥλιος, τὰ δὲ ἱμάτια αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο λευκὰ ὡς τὸ φῶς, καὶ ἰδοὺ ὤφθησαν αὐτοῖς Μωσῆς καὶ Ἡλίας μετ' αὐτοῦ συλλαλοῦντες. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπε τῷ Ἰησοῦ· Κύριε, καλὸν ἐστὶν ἡμᾶς ὧδε εἶναι· εἰ θέλεις, ποιήσωμεν ὧδε τρεῖς σκηνάς, σοὶ μίαν καὶ Μωσεῖ μίαν καὶ μίαν Ἠλίᾳ. ἔτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ἰδοὺ νεφέλη φωτεινὴ ἐπεσκίασεν αὐτούς, καὶ ἰδοὺ φωνὴ ἐκ τῆς νεφέλης λέγουσα· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα· αὐτοῦ ἀκούετε· καὶ ἀκούσαντες οἱ μαθηταὶ ἔπεσον ἐπὶ πρόσωπον αὐτῶν καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν σφόδρα. καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἤψατο αὐτῶν καὶ εἶπεν· ἐγέρθητε καὶ μὴ φοβεῖσθε. ἐπάραντες δὲ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς αὐτῶν οὐδένα εἶδον εἰ μὴ τὸν Ἰησοῦν μόνον. καὶ καταβαινόντων αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄρους ἐνετείλατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· μηδενὶ εἶπτε τὸ ὄραμα ἕως οὗ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῇ.

Many thanks are extended to sooooo many faithful friends who extended their 'BIRTHDAY GREETINGS' to our beloved Pastor; Father Eugene:

THREE HIERARCHS PARISH COUNCIL, FR. VASYL SHAK and the UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY, FR. MYSTISLAV and the RUSSIAN COMMUNITY, ATHINEOS FAMILY, JOANNA VASSILAS, BEZUGLY FAMILY, ROBERT MALFI and ANGEL, TEIMURAZ and FAMILY, ANGIE VLAHOS and FAMILY, YEKATERINA and PAVEL, PAMELA KELLY and DINA FRATANGELO. STELLA OBERLE, IRENA STELLMACH, GORDON and LARISA HEISER, GEORGIA BOUZAKIS and FAMILY, GEORGE, ANN and CHRIS ANNIS, STEPHANIE CARAVOLOS FAMILY, SANDY VALLAS FAMILY, MARIA and NICK NOTARO, ALIOTTA BAKERY, YIASOU RESTAURANT, FR. GUY MASSIE, FR. GERASIMOS and STELLA MAKRIS, MARIA HALKIAS and MINAS, MADISON FLORIST and GIANNOPOULOS FAMILY, T.L.I.G. MEMBERS, PHILOPHOCHOS SOCIETY, EFFIE GALIATSATOS, PATRA ATHANASAKOS, MARCIA JACOBS U.A., F.X. ROURKE and ODHRAN BRANLEY, GREGORY MITCHELL and FAMILY, ANTHONY and MARIA FISHER, JULIE, GEORGE and JOANNA KORKOFIGAS, NADEZHDA and ALEXANDER, SOPHIA, FLORA, THEODOSIA, TATIANA, ROMANIAN SOPHIA, DAMIAN VAGANOV and OLEG, IRINA and LARISA NIKANDROV, SUSAN and DENO CHRISTAKOS, NICHOLAS and KATHERINE MITCHELL, OLENA ROMAN and VICTORIA SHAK. CONNIE IOANNIDES, NICHOLAS and VALENTINA SITNYCKI, RON and HELEN McCOMISKEY, BOYS and IRENE, GREGORY, LAURA and NICHOLAS TSATSIS, DENA REGAS, BERNICE FAMILY.

IT WAS INDEED A GREAT CELEBRATION.

Devotions of August:

MONDAY	AUGUST 07,	Paraklesis (Supplications)	7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 09,	Paraklesis (Supplications)	7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
FRIDAY	AUGUST 11,	Paraklesis (Supplications)	7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
TUESDAY	AUGUST 15,	ASSUMPTION (Repose) of the Virgin Mary	10:00 A.M.

Artoklasies are most welcomed. Veneration of the EPITAPHION from August 01-15th,

ARTOKLASIA TODAY { is being offered by Voula Lambros in celebration of METAMORPHOSIS!
CHRONIA POLLA SOTIRI.

Marigold flower blossoms are the traditional bloom offered to the THEOTOKOS, hence it is named 'mary's gold' marigold. Pick some from your home garden and place them at the 'epitaphion' of the Mother of God!

SPECIAL NOTICE: we are in need of sacramental wine (Commanderia, Mavrodaphne, Kagor) please see the clergy to secure a bottle or two or a full case. Not every wine is appropriate for sacramental use- see the clergy.

ARCH – EPISCOPAL VISITATION: Our Parish will be graced with the visitation and con-celebration at the 12:30 Divine Liturgy on Sunday AUGUST 13TH, by : HIS BEATITUDE METROPOLITAN ANTHONY and HIS EMINANCE ARCHBISHOP DANIEL of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America.

Feast of Saint Phanourios is fast approaching: SUNDAY – AUGUST 27TH. This remarkable holy centurion (ROMAN) was martyred on the Greek Island of Rhodes. This particular saint martyr suffered many persecutions of the flesh by his enemies. The tortures were many because as a Roman Officer he refused to recognize Caesar as both KING and GOD. He pledged his allegiance to Caesar as Emperor but NOT as god! Phanourios was a devout CHRISTIAN during the early persecutions of the fledgling faith. His mother was a devout 'pagan' offering her sacrifices to the myriad gods of Rome. Despite his constant appeals for her to accept JESUS as the CHRIST (Messiah of the world) she refused. This was a major disappointment for blessed Phanourios who was devoted to his maternal love. Each icon of the martyr evidences Phanourios holding a lighted candle searching throughout the heavens for his mother's lost and wandering soul. Saint Phanourios is the 'patron' of lost things, lost causes, lost direction. If you lose something, call out in supplication for the saint's assistance and it SHALL BE FOUND !

PHANOUIROPITES are special cakes that are prepared as thanksgiving to honor this martyr for 'things FOUND'. Traditionally each cake or 'pita' is cut into portions to be shared with others celebrating his 'heavenly birthday'.....his holy martyrdom. I'm sure that you have something to be thankful for that was lost. Come and share the JOY, the STORY, the CAKE.

Up-coming MEMORIALS: Sunday August 20th :

+ CAROL POULOS +NICHOLAS ZANETAKOS + THEODORE PAPADAKIS + STEPHANIE FELDMAN

Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed !

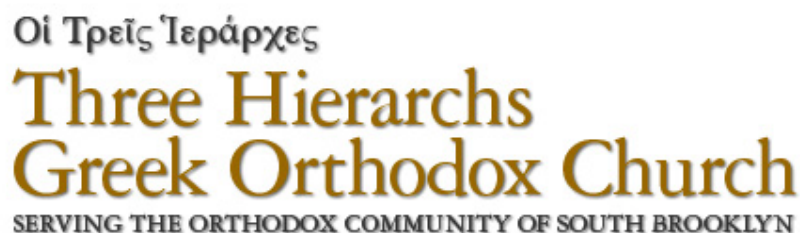


You Apostles from afar, Being gathered together in the village of Gethsemane,
Lay my body in burial, And You my Son, and my God, Receive now my spirit from me.

You are the sweetness of Angels, The gladness of the afflicted ones, a protection of all Christians,
O Virgin Mother of our Lord; Grant me now help and save me from the eternal torments.

I have you as Mediator Before God who loves mankind: May he not question my action
Before the hosts of the Angels, I ask of you, O Virgin, Hasten now quickly to my aid.

You are a tower adorned with gold, A city surrounded by twelve walls, A shining throne touched by the sun,
A royal seat for the King, O unexplainable wonder, How do you nurse the Master?



Light a Candle!

During the summer months we will be in the process of updating our Web-Site. Pictures, announcements, flyers, past and present will be available with ease. Search our gallery for memories. Emails allow us to send the church bulletin to your home to be seen on your phone or computer giving you information on news and events.

Join our
mailing list

Triumphant

New
And
Old
Memories



Those who are unable to attend have a chance to be part of Sunday services. The Web-site allows you to light a candle with a comment if you wish at our "Light a Candle" area,,

E-mail



Please give inf. to Church Office

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280
Web site: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org E-mail : info@threehierarchsbrooklynny.org



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – imaafl@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2574	Ἡ Μεταμόρφωσις τοῦ Σωτῆρος Κυριακὴ 6 Αὐγούστου 2023	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Μὲ τὸ Χριστὸ ἄγγελοι, δίχως Αὐτὸν δαίμονες

«Καὶ ἔλαμψε τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ὡς ὁ ἥλιος, τὰ δὲ ἱμάτια αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο λευκὰ ὡς τὸ φῶς» (Ματθ. 17,2)

Κάθε μέρα, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἡ Ὁρθόδοξος Ἐκκλησία μας ἐορτάζει ἁγίους, πνευματικά ἀστέρια· τὸν ἅγιο Δημήτριο, τὸν ἅγιο Νικόλαο κ.λπ.. Σήμερα ὁμως ἐορτάζει ὁ ἥλιος, **ὁ Χριστός, ποὺ εἶνε ὁ Θεός**. Τὸ πιστεύεις; εἶσαι Χριστιανός· δὲν τὸ πιστεύεις; δὲν εἶσαι Χριστιανός.

Γιὰ τὸ ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε ὁ Θεὸς ὑπάρχουν ἀποδείξεις πολλές. Μία ἀπὸ αὐτὲς εἶνε καὶ τὰ **θαύματά** του, τὰ ἀμέτρητα, ποὺ εἶνε **τεσσάρων εἰδῶν**· θαύματα στὴ φύσι, στοὺς ἀνθρώπους, στοὺς δαίμονες, καὶ στὸν ἑαυτό του.

- Θαύματα **στὴ φύσι**· ἔκανε τὸ νερὸ κρασί, πρόσταξε τὸν ἄνεμο καὶ τὴ θάλασσα καὶ ἔγινε γαλήνη, πολλαπλασίασε τὰ ψωμιά καὶ χόρτασαν χιλιάδες, διέταξε τὴ συκιά καὶ ξεράθηκε...

- Θαύματα **στοὺς ἀνθρώπους**· θεράπευσε τὸν παράλυτο καὶ σηκώθηκε, ἔδωσε στὸν τυφλὸ τὸ φῶς του, εἶπε στὸν κουτσὸ καὶ περπάτησε, καθάρισε τὸ λεπρὸ ἀπὸ τὴ λέπρα, πῆγε καὶ στὰ μνήματα καὶ ἀνέστησε νεκρούς.

- Θαύματα **κατὰ τῶν δαιμόνων**· ἔδωξε δαιμόνια μέσα ἀπὸ γυναῖκες, ἄντρες, παιδιὰ· γι' αὐτὸ οἱ δαίμονες τρέμουν τὸ ὄνομά του.

- Ἐκανε τέλος καὶ θαύματα **στὸν ἑαυτό του**, ἐπάνω στὸ σῶμα του· π.χ. ἡ σύλληψίς του τὴν ἡμέρα τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ, ἡ γέννησί του ἀπὸ τὴν Παναγία, ἡ ἀνάστασί του ἐκ νεκρῶν, ἡ ἀνάληψί του στοὺς οὐρανούς. Τέτοιο θαῦμα εἶνε καὶ ἡ σημερινὴ ἐορτή, ἡ **Μεταμόρφωσις**.

Ὁ Χριστός, ὁ Θεός μας, ἐνανθρώπησε· πῆρε σάρκα ἀπὸ τὰ πάναγνα αἵματα τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου καὶ παρουσιάστηκε στὴ γῆ. Ὅποιος τὸν ἔβλεπε ἔβλεπε ἕναν **πραγματικὸ ἄνθρωπο**, ποὺ πονοῦσε, πεινοῦσε, διψοῦσε, εἶχε ἀνάγκη ἀναπαύσεως καὶ ὕπνου ὅπως ἐμεῖς· εἶχε ὅλα τὰ λεγόμενα **ἀδιάβλητα πάθη**.

Ποιὸς μποροῦσε βλέποντας τὸ Ναζωραῖο νὰ φανταστῇ ὅτι εἶνε ὁ Θεός; Κι ὁμως· αὐτὸ ἦταν μιὰ οἰκονομία. Τὸ νὰ ἐμφανισθῇ ὁ Θεὸς ὡς ἄν-

θρωπος, μάλιστα ὡς ὁ πτωχότερος ὄλων, εἶνε τὸ μεγαλύτερο θαῦμα ποὺ εἶδε ὁ κόσμος. Γιατί ἔγινε αὐτό; δὲν μποροῦσε νὰ ἐμφανισθῇ ὡς Θεός; Μποροῦσε. Μὰ ποιὸς θὰ ἄντεχε νὰ δῇ τὴ δόξα τοῦ Θεοῦ; Εἶνε ἀδύνατον μάτια ἀνθρώπου νὰ τὸν ἀντικρύσουν ὅπως εἶνε. Λένε μερικοὶ ἀμφισβητοῦντες· **—Ποιὸς εἶδε τὸ Θεό;... Αὐτὸ εἶνε ἀνόητο**. Οἱ ἀρχαῖοι εἶπαν· «*Εάν τις τὸν ἥλιον ἀναιδῶς ἐγχειρῇ θεάσασθαι, τὴν ὄψιν ἀφαιρεῖται*», ὅποιος τολμᾷ ν' ἀντικρύσῃ κατὰματα τὸν ἥλιο τυφλώνεται, χάνει τὸ φῶς του (Ξενοφ., Ἀπομν. 4,3,14). Ἀφοῦ λοιπόν, ἀνόητε ἄνθρωπε, τὸν ἥλιο δὲν μπορεῖς νὰ δῇς, θέλης νὰ δῇς τὸ Θεό; ἀφοῦ τὸ δημιουργήμα σὲ τυφλώνει, πολὺ περισσότερο ἡ λάμψι τοῦ δημιουργοῦ του. Καὶ ὁ ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος λέει, ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς ἐμφανίστηκε ὡς ἄνθρωπος, διότι οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἦταν ἀδύνατον νὰ δοῦν τὴν θεία φύσι.

Ἄν ὑποτεθῇ ὅτι **ὁ ἥλιος**, ποὺ εἶνε τόσο μακριά, ἄφηνε τὴ θέσι του καὶ πλησίαζε τὴ γῆ, ἡ θερμοκρασία θὰ ὑψωνόταν τόσο πολὺ, ὥστε ἡ γῆ θὰ γινόταν κάρβουνο. Τί θέλω νὰ πῶ· μετὰ τὴν ἐνανθρώπησι τοῦ Θεοῦ Λόγου ἔγινε μέγα θαῦμα· ὄχι ὁ ἥλιος ἀλλὰ ὁ δημιουργὸς τοῦ ἡλίου κατέβηκε· καὶ δὲν πλησίασε ἀπλῶς ἀλλὰ ἤγγισε, πάτησε πάνω στὴ γῆ, ἔζησε ἀνάμεσα στοὺς ἀνθρώπους· καὶ ὁμως ἡ γῆ δὲν κάηκε! Γιατί; Διότι ὁ Θεὸς ντύθηκε σάρκα ἀνθρώπινη, «*ἐν ὁμοιώματι ἀνθρώπων γενόμενος, καὶ σχήματι εὗρεθεὶς ὡς ἄνθρωπος*» (Φλ. 2,7)· παρουσιάστηκε μετὰ ἐνδυμασίᾳ σαρκός.

Αὐτὸ ἔγινε γιὰ λόγους οἰκονομίας. Ἐπρεπε ὁμως οἱ ἄνθρωποι, γιὰ νὰ σωθοῦν, νὰ γνωρίζουν ὄχι μόνο τὴν ἀνθρώπινη ἀλλὰ καὶ τὴν θεία φύσι του. Γιὰ νὰ τοὺς δείξῃ λοιπόν ὁ Χριστὸς ὅτι **εἶνε καὶ Θεός**, ἔγινε τὸ σημερινὸ θαῦμα, τὸ θαῦμα τῆς Μεταμορφώσεως. Δὲν ἔδειξε ὅλη τὴ δόξα του, διότι θὰ ἔχαναν μαζί μετὰ τὰ μάτια καὶ τὴ ζωὴ τους· ἔδειξε μόνο μιὰ ἀκτίνα τῆς θεότητός του.

Στὴν Παλαιστίνη, στὴν περιοχὴ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, ὑπάρχει τὸ ὄρος **Θαβῶρ**. Ἐκεῖ εἶνε σήμερα κτι-

σμένη μία ἐκκλησία τῆς Μεταμορφώσεως ποὺ πανηγυρίζει. Τὴν ἔχτισαν Ἕλληνες μὲ δυσκολίες· τὸ μέρος ἦταν ἄνυδρο καὶ κουβαλοῦσαν νερὸ μὲ καμήλες.

Στὸ Θαβώρ λοιπὸν ἀνέβηκε ὁ Χριστὸς γιὰ προσευχὴ μὲ τρεῖς μαθητὰς του, τὸν Πέτρο, τὸν Ἰάκωβο καὶ τὸν Ἰωάννη. Κ' ἐκεῖ στὴν κορυφὴ τί ἔγινε; Ἄς μὴν πιστεύουν οἱ ἄπιστοι, δικαίωμά τους· ἐμεῖς πιστεύουμε. Ἄφησε νὰ φανῇ μία λάμψη τῆς θεότητός του, ὅχι ὅλη ἡ θεότης, ὅχι ὅλος ὁ ἥλιος ἀλλὰ μιὰ ἀκτίνα του. Ἐλαμψε τὸ πρόσωπό του σὰν τὸν ἥλιο καὶ «τὰ ἱμάτια αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο λευκὰ ὡς τὸ φῶς» (ἐ.ἀ. 17,2)· τὰ ἀπέριττα ρούχα του, ποὺ εἶχε ὑφάνει στὸν ἀργαλειὸ ἡ Παναγία, ἄστραψαν καὶ ἔγιναν λευκὰ σὰν τὸ φῶς. Τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη ἐμφανίστηκαν τιμητικῶς ὁλοζώντανοι δίπλα του δύο ἱεροὶ ἄνδρες τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης, ὁ Μωυσῆς (ποὺ ἔζησε 1.500 χρόνια πρὸ Χριστοῦ) καὶ ὁ Ἠλίας (ποὺ ἔζησε 800 χρόνια πρὸ Χριστοῦ), καὶ συνωμιλοῦσαν μαζί του. Τὴν ἴδια ὥρα τοὺς σκέπασε μία νεφέλη φωτεινὴ, ἀπὸ τὴν ὁποία ἀκούστηκε ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ Πατρὸς νὰ λέῃ· «Οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα· αὐτοῦ ἀκούετε» (Ματθ. 17,5). Καὶ ὁ Πέτρος ἔκπληκτος ἀπὸ τὸ θέαμα εἶπε· «Καλὸν ἐστὶν ἡμᾶς ὧδε εἶναι...» (ἐ.ἀ. 17,4).

Αὐτὸ εἶνε μὲ λίγα λόγια τὸ θαῦμα τῆς Μεταμορφώσεως, ποὺ φανερώνει ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ Θεὸς ἀληθινός. Μᾶς προσφέρει πολλὰ καὶ **σημαντικὰ διδάγματα**.

✓ Εἶνε ἀλήθεια, εἶνε **ἱστορικὸ γεγονός**, ὅχι παραμῦθι σὰν ἐκεῖνα τῶν ἀρχαίων (ὅπως π.χ. οἱ Μεταμορφώσεις τοῦ λατίνου Ὁβιδίου)· ὄντως ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ κατέβηκε πραγματικὰ στὴ γῆ, φόρεσε σάρκα ἀνθρωπίνη, περπάτησε ἀνάμεσά μας, καὶ μεταμορφώθηκε στὸ Θαβώρ.

✓ Ἀλλὰ τὸ θαῦμα αὐτὸ εἶνε καὶ **προφητικὸ**· τί προφητεύει; Ὅπως ὁ Χριστὸς σήμερα μεταμορφώθηκε, ἔτσι καὶ ὁ Χριστιανός, αὐτὸς ποὺ πιστεύει στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ τὸν ἀκολουθεῖ.

• Ὑφίσταται καὶ ὁ πιστὸς μία ἀλλοίωσις, μεταμόρφωσις, πρῶτα **στὸ ἱερὸ βάπτισμα**. Πῶς νὰ σᾶς τὸ ἐκφράσω; Ἐὰν σᾶς πῶ ὅτι τὸ κάρβουνο γίνεται διαμάντι, ὅτι τὸ κοράκι γίνεται περιστέρη, ὅτι ὁ λύκος γίνεται πρόβατο, θὰ θαυμάσετε· ἀλλὰ στὸ βάπτισμα γίνεται κάτι ἀνώτερο· ὁ ἁμαρτωλός, ποὺ πιστεύει στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ βαπτίζεται, βγαίνοντας ἀπὸ τὴν κολυμβήθρα ἀστράφτει σὰν διαμάντι, λάμπει σὰν ὁλόλευκο περιστέρη, ἡμερεύει σὰν ἄκακο ἀρνίον.

• Ἀλλή μεταμόρφωσις καὶ θεϊκὴ ἀλλοίωσις δέχεται ὁ πιστὸς **στὰ μυστήρια τῆς μετανόιας - ἐξομολογήσεως καὶ τῆς θείας κοινωνίας**. Λυτρώνεται ἀπὸ τὴν ἐνοχὴ τῆς συνειδήσεως, ἀπαλλάσσεται ἀπὸ τὸ βάρος τῶν πταισμάτων, καθαρίζεται ἀπὸ τοὺς ῥύπους τῶν ἀνομιῶν, ἐνώνεται μὲ τὸ σῶμα

καὶ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, λαμβάνει Πνεῦμα ἅγιο, φωτίζεται, ὑψώνεται, θεοῦται κατὰ χάριν, γίνεται ἓνας ἄγγελος.

✓ Στὴ Μεταμόρφωσις ἀκούμε τὴ φωνὴ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ Πατρὸς ποὺ κελεύει· «*Αὐτοῦ ἀκούετε*». Μᾶς καλεῖ **νὰ ἀκούμε τὸ Χριστό**. Τὸν παραδέχεται Θεός· τότε νὰ ὑπακούῃς σ' Αὐτόν· ὅπως τὸ παιδί στὴ μάνα καὶ τὸν πατέρα, ὅπως ὁ μαθητὴς στὸ δάσκαλο, ὅπως ὁ στρατιώτης στὸν ἀξιωματικό, ὅπως ὁ ἀσθενὴς στὸ γιατρό.

Ἐμεῖς δυστυχῶς, ἐνῶ σ' αὐτοὺς ὑπακούουμε, **ἔχουμε κλείσει τὰ αὐτιά** στὸ Χριστό. Γι' αὐτὸ ὁμῶς ταλαιπωρούμεθα. Ἄν ὑπακούαμε στὶς ἐντολὰς τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ μάλιστα στὴν κορυφαία ἐντολή, στὸ «*Ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους*» (Ἰω. 13,34), ἡ γῆ αὐτὴ θὰ ἦταν παράδεισος, ἐνῶ τώρα ἔγινε κόλασις, ζούγκλα, καὶ ὑπάρχει κίνδυνος μὲ πυρηνικὲς βόμβες ἀπὸ τὰ «μαυροπούλια» νὰ τὴν καταστρέψουμε ὁλοσχερῶς.

Ὁ ἄνθρωπος κοντὰ στὸ Χριστὸ γίνεται ἀρνίον καὶ ἄγγελος, μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὸ Χριστὸ γίνεται θηρίο καὶ δαίμονας. **Αὐτὸ τὸ μήνυμα ἐκπέμπει σήμερα ἡ Μεταμόρφωσις τοῦ Σωτῆρος**. Ἐνα ἀπὸ τὰ δύο· **ἢ θὰ γίνουμε ἄγγελοι ἢ θὰ γίνουμε δαίμονες**. Καὶ εἶπαμε ὅτι ἡ γῆ αὐτὴ ἔγινε σήμερα κόλασις καὶ χειρότερα ἀπὸ τὴν κόλασις, γιατί ὅλοι, μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, παραβαίνουμε τὶς ἐντολὰς τοῦ Κυρίου. Πρῶτα σὲ φτωχικὲς καλύβες κατοικοῦσαν ἄγγελοι, τώρα σὲ μέγαρα καὶ οὐρανοξύστες κατοικοῦν δαίμονες. Ἄν ἄκουγε ὁ κόσμος τὸ Χριστό, ἡ γῆ αὐτὴ θὰ ἦταν ἓνας μικρὸς παράδεισος.

✓ Λέω «μικρὸς παράδεισος», γιατί ἡ ζωὴ δὲν τελειώνει ἐδῶ. Προσδοκοῦμε τὴν αἰώνιο ζωὴ. Ἐκεῖ εἶνε ὁ αἰώνιος παράδεισός μας. Οἱ παλαιοὶ εὐχόνταν μεταξύ τους «Καλὸν παράδεισο!». Τ' ἀκούτε τώρα αὐτό; Ἐκεῖ πρέπει νὰ 'νε τὰ βλέμματά μας. Γιατὶ ἐκεῖ μᾶς περιμένει **ἡ ὁριστικὴ μεταμόρφωσις**. Καὶ ὁριστικὴ μεταμόρφωσις εἶνε ὅταν «οἱ δίκαιοι», ὅπως εἶπε ὁ Χριστός, «θὰ ἐκλάμπουν σὰν τὸν ἥλιο» (Ματθ. 13,43). Ἐκεῖ καὶ ὁ πιὸ φτωχός, καὶ ὁ ζητιάνος, καὶ ὁ κουρελῆς, ἂν πιστεύῃ στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ εἶνε δίκαιος, θὰ λάμψει σὰν τὸν ἥλιο.

Τότε ἐκεῖ, ἀδελφοί μου, τὰ μάτια μας θὰ δοῦν ὥραϊα, θαυμάσια πράγματα. Θὰ δοῦν συγγενεῖς καὶ φίλους, γονεῖς καὶ προγόνους, ἁγίους καὶ προφῆτες. Ὅλοι θὰ λάμπουν σὰν τὸν ἥλιο. Μὰ παραπάνω ἀπ' ὅλα, τὸ ὠραιότερο, ποιοῦ θὰ εἶνε; Τὸ ὠραιότερο, ποὺ βλέποντάς το θὰ περνᾶνε ἐκατὸ χρόνια καὶ θὰ σοῦ φαίνωνται σὰν μιὰ στιγμὴ, θὰ εἶνε **ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός**. Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ Ἥλιος, αὐτὸς εἶνε ἡ Ζωή· αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ Πατέρας, αὐτὸς ἡ Μάνα, αὐτὸς τὸ Πᾶν· ὦν, παῖδες, ὑμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

The Lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth

FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$300 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$200 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE**. By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2023 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

It is good for us to be here

Upon Mount Tabor, Jesus revealed to his disciples a heavenly mystery. While living among them he had spoke of the kingdom and of his second coming in glory, but to banish from their hearts any possible doubt concerning the kingdom and to confirm their faith in what lay in the future by its prefiguration in the present, he gave them on Mount Tabor a wonderful vision of his glory, a foreshadowing of the kingdom of heaven.

These are the divine wonders we celebrate today; this is the saving revelation given us upon the mountain; this is the festival of Christ that has drawn us here. Let us listen, then, to the sacred voice of God so compellingly calling us from high, from the

summit of the mountain, so that with the Lord's chosen disciples we may penetrate the deep meaning of these holy mysteries, so far beyond our capacity to express. Jesus goes before us to show us the way, both up the mountain and into heaven, and – I speak boldly – it is for us now to follow him with all speed, yearning for the heavenly vision that will give us a share in his radiance, renew our spiritual nature and transform us into his own likeness, making us for ever sharers in his Godhead and raising us to heights as yet undreamed of.

Sermon of St. Anastasius of Sinai

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RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 25th YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM,** with listener telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well as secular topics confronting the nation and the world are discussed. Tune in and join the dialogue by calling 718-204-8900. Check our live audio at **LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER**. The website address. W.W.W.gaepis.org ([Click live radio](#))