

August 6, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION!

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Today's Second Reading and an Excerpt from the Gospel

Beloved: We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, "This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

2 PETER 1:16-19

Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. ...

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”

MARK 9:2-3, 7

Reflection

The Feast of the Transfiguration marks an important moment in Jesus’ life and ministry because it confirmed Jesus as the Messiah and fulfilled what was proclaimed by both the prophets and the law.

I often wonder what I would have done if I was present at this moment, and I think I would question my own sanity! How could Moses and Elijah be present when they were deceased? And then to hear the Father say, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” I would think I was having auditory and visual hallucinations.

I don’t have to worry about being there because I was not; what you and I do need to take into consideration is the Transfiguration’s message for us. The disciples’ eyes were opened at this moment to catch that fleeting glimpse of Jesus in all his splendor and glory.

Don’t you and I have our own “transfiguration moments” in our lives? Think about it for a moment. Have you not experienced something deep within you when you quietly watched the rising or setting sun? Was this sight, were those feelings within, beyond words for you? Did it capture something deep in the center of your being where, for just that moment, the divinity of God touched your divinity and humanness as a child of God?

Perhaps you felt your own sense of transformation when you gave birth to your children or were present when a child first came into being in our world. The womb, a mysterious and awesome world where God “knits us together” in God’s image and likeness. Then the glorious moment of darkness into life as the baby transitions from the cocoon of the womb into the bright light of our world.

Perhaps a transfiguration moment was when you were sitting by the bedside of one who was transitioning from this life to eternal life. Some, myself included, have heard those nearing death experience being with and seeing in the corner of their rooms loved ones who have preceded them in death. I have not seen this myself, though I’ve experienced it with the ones who were moving toward God and eternity. They speak to people I cannot see and this is a glimpse of the

transcendent realities of our lives where God's inbreaking presence is real. It quiets my being and allows me to simply be, in these moments, in a liminal space with my Beloved, where words are not needed.

These moments are sacred moments though they must not stop there. It is our response that matters because we are called to bring the Light of Christ into our world. We can use these transformative, transfiguring moments with the sacred to propel us into the world, strengthened in our faith and with a quiet determination to bring the Good News to all of creation.



Transfiguration Image from Russian Orthodox Church
Photo by Falco

For Pondering

- Reflect on your own life and recall times when you experienced God's presence within and around you. As you bring these experiences to mind, take them in, anew, and allow God's light and love to be with you.
 - Do these experiences propel you into any sort of action or response? Act on it if you can!
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For Prayer

*O Holy Beloved,
we praise and give thanks for your inbreaking presence in our lives.
May we allow these experiences to permeate our entire being
and give us the energy and courage
to bring your light more fully into our daily lives
and with all whom we encounter this day.
Amen.*

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