

THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD ON MOUNT TABOR

(The Order of the venerable of God, Mar Giwargis, Metropolitan of
Assyria)

The Anthem of the Chancel

Come, let us exult and be glad in it.

On this day our Savior decided to reveal the great glory of his Transfiguration. Upon Mount Tabor he was transfigured, and his face and his garments shone. Glory to him for his provision.

Let the heart of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

On this day our Savior desired to reveal

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever. Amen.

Tell us, Daniel, O goodly youth of God, how you saw the Son: "I saw one who flew on the clouds, who resembled the Ancient of Days, whose dominion is the heavens and the earth."

The Lections

Exodus 19:1-9; 20:18-21

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. And when they set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain. And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. And all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. And the LORD said to Moses, "Lo, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you for ever."

Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

Now when all the people perceived the thunderings and the lightnings and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled; and they stood afar off, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will hear; but let

not God speak to us, lest we die." And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to prove you, and that the fear of him may be before your eyes, that you may not sin."

And the people stood afar off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was. 2

Isaiah 6:1-end

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And he said, "Go, and say to this people:

'Hear and hear, but do not understand;
see and see, but do not perceive.'

Make the heart of this people fat,
and their ears heavy,
and shut their eyes;
lest they see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."

Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said:

"Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without men,
and the land is utterly desolate,
and the LORD removes men far away,
and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.
And though a tenth remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak,
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled."

The holy seed is its stump. 3

The Shuraya

He revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. *Let us honor the Transfiguration of Christ with spiritual songs.* Hallelujah, hallelujah, yea hallelujah!

Response:

He remembered his goodness and his faithfulness to those of the house of Israel. *Let us honor the Transfiguration of Christ with spiritual songs.* Hallelujah, hallelujah, yea hallelujah!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting and for ever and ever. Amen. *Let us honor the Transfiguration of Christ with spiritual songs.* Hallelujah, hallelujah, yea hallelujah!

The Apostle:

1 Timothy 1:18-2:all; 3:14-end.

This charge I commit to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophetic utterances which pointed to you, that inspired by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith, among them Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was borne at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; also that women should adorn themselves modestly and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly attire but by good deeds, as befits women who profess religion. Let a woman learn in silence with all submissiveness. I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to keep silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet woman will be saved through bearing children, if she continues in faith and love and holiness, with modesty.

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. 4

The Zumara

Those who love the Lord hate evil; he preserves the souls of his righteous. (2)
A light that dawns for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. (2)

The Gospel

St. Matthew 16:24-17:9

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom."

And after six days 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." 4

The Anthem of the Gospel

Come, let us glorify the Lord.

Come, my beloved, let us marvel at the wise Creator, for when he beheld and considered his handiwork, which had been shamefully treated by the insolent, he sent his Beloved, and he clothed himself with our form, revealing and making known in it the mystery which was hidden from ages and generations, through which the same was declared, as if through a well-crafted speech. So then, my Lord, we will cry out and say, O you who reconciled the worlds by your revelation, glory be to you!

Come and see the works of God.

Come, my beloved, let us marvel

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever. Amen.

Your servants look for life and continual blessings, O our Savior, seeking refuge in the faith and taking shelter beneath the wings of the Cross. In your compassion guard the company of your worshippers, and fulfill for them your declared promises, for in your Gospel you said to your friends, "Everyone who believes in me will inherit the Kingdom and eternal life." O my Lord, make us worthy to sing to you with your saints in the bride-chamber of your Kingdom, "Glory be to you!"

The Anthem of the Mysteries

For the fountain of life is with you. 5

You provided for us a fount of blessings and a peaceful haven through your revelation, O Christ, and you turned us toward you, away from vainly wandering after the error of graven idols, delivering over to us a mature understanding of the glorious persons of the divine nature, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So then, we will all glorify you, who are alone Good, with Psalms and hymns.

And you will give them drink from your sweet torrent. 5

You provided for us a fount of blessings

The Canon "You Are Terrible"

You are terrible, O God Most High, from your Holy Place for ever and ever. Blessed is the glory of the Lord from his place.

You are clothed with honor and majesty; you cover yourself with light as with a garment. 5

You are terrible, O God Most High, from your Holy Place for ever and ever. Blessed is the glory of the Lord from his place.

Our Savior revealed on the mountain top the great glory in which he is going to come.

You are terrible, O God Most High, from your Holy Place for ever and ever. Blessed is the glory of the Lord from his place.

Continuation:

There was a voice from the heavens which said, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well-pleased."

You are terrible, O God Most High, from your Holy Place for ever and ever. Blessed is the glory of the Lord from his place.

The Anthem of the Bema

The hidden Mystery of Christ is now being administered. Companies of angels are hallowing the table of the spiritual Sacrament.

Let us all, through the grace of our Savior, draw near to him in faith, and let us receive the Body and Blood of Christ the Son, giving glory and saying, "Hallelujah!"

Verses:

There came from the stillness of the heavens a sound like a mighty wind.

Let us all, through the grace of our Savior, draw near

Of your Body and Blood:

Blessed is Christ, the Lord of all, who manifested his glory upon Mount Tabor.

The disciples wondered and the prophets were amazed when they saw the glory of the all-lifegiving One.

A cloud overshadowed, a light shone forth, and the Father cried out, "This is my Beloved."

The Teshbokhta (Composed by Yazdin the Great)

Strengthen, O our Lord, the hands which reach out and take the Sacrament for the pardon of debts.

Make them worthy to always bear fruit for your Godhead.

Make worthy the mouths which offer praise that they may sing glory.

May the ears which hear the sound of your praises, O my Lord, never hear the noise of trouble.

May the eyes which have beheld your great compassion behold again your blessed hope.

Make the tongues that cry out "Holy" to speak the truth.

Cause the feet that walk within the churches to walk in that land of light.

Gladden with new life the bodies which consume your Body.

Increase all assistance to our company which worships your Godhead.

May your great love remain with us, and in it may we increasingly render praise.

Open the door to the petitioning of us all, and let our service enter in before you.

O our Lord Jesus, worshipful King, who conquered by your passion the tyrant death,
Son of God who promised us new life in the Kingdom on high,
Remove from us all harm, and make tranquillity and mercy to dwell in our land,
That on the day of your appearance we may live before you and go out to meet you,
according to your will.

We will confess your name with hosannas for your goodness to our race,
For your mercies have been multiplied to our humanity, and your love has shone forth
upon our mortality.

You have canceled our debts through your atonement; glory be to your name for your
gift.

Blessed is your honor from within your place, you who forgive debts because of your
mercies.

By your grace make us all worthy to confess and worship your Godhead.

And we will lift up glory to your Lordship at every hour, amen and amen.