

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country,
your family and your father's house, for the
land I will show you. I will make you a great
nation; I will bless you and make your name
so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

"I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you."

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 32

Response:

**May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.**

1. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

2 Tm 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of
the Good News, relying on the power of God
who has saved us and called us to be holy –
not because of anything we ourselves have
done but for his own purpose and by his own
grace. This grace had already been granted
to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning
of time, but it has only been revealed by the
Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He
abolished death, and he has proclaimed life
and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was
heard:
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL

Mt 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

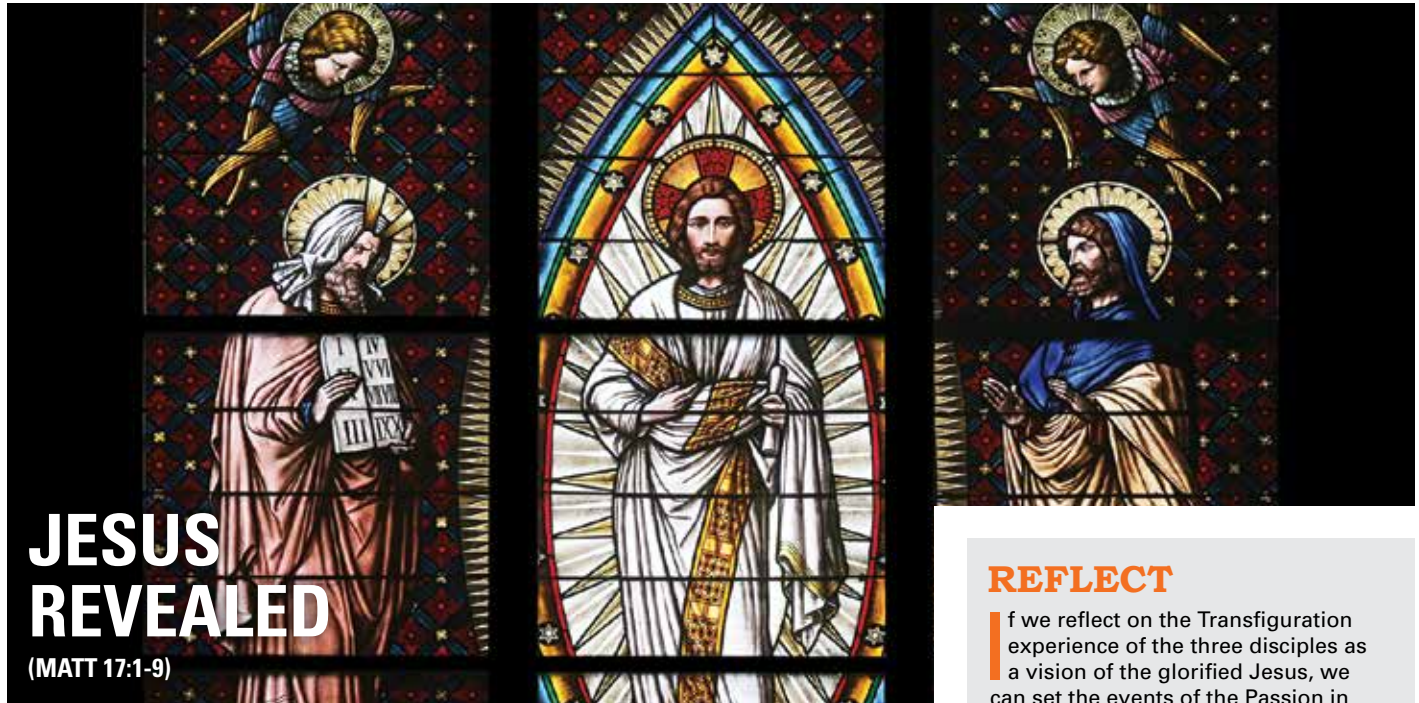
May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse us of our faults
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased;
listen to him.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of
heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, depicted in stained glass in Votivkirche (Votive Church), Vienna

At the beginning of his ministry in Galilee, Jesus is revealed as the Son of God at his baptism.

Matthew tells us about a similar event when Jesus is about to begin his journey towards Jerusalem and his ministry in Judea: we hear about that episode today in the extract presenting the Transfiguration. Matthew describes it as a vision of Jesus in glory, of who and what he will be in the fulfilled Kingdom of God. Moses and Elijah represent the Jewish Law and the prophets: but there is more to them than that. The end of the lives of both was shrouded in mystery: Moses died after being granted a glimpse of the land of Canaan which he would not enter; he was buried, perhaps by God, and no one knew where his grave or tomb might be. Elijah was taken up into heaven in a blazing chariot and was expected to return. In this sense, they would be suitable persons to be talking with Jesus about the events to come. The cloud is a symbol in the Hebrew Bible of the presence of God: we find it mentioned in the Exodus journey and in Moses' meeting with God on Mount Sinai. When Moses came down the mountain, his face was shining so brightly from being in God's presence that he had to wear a veil over it so that the Israelites could look at him.

There are echoes of the book of Daniel and its visions of the end of time and the establishing of God's kingdom. The Transfiguration is an experience of that future glory which tells the disciples that the cross will not be the end: Jesus hints at this when he instructs them to tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead. ■

REFLECT

If we reflect on the Transfiguration experience of the three disciples as a vision of the glorified Jesus, we can set the events of the Passion in their context: Matthew is presenting Jesus as the fulfilment of the Hebrew scriptures and traditions by showing him speaking on equal terms with the two great representative figures of Judaism, Moses and Elijah. He is also telling us that Jesus' teaching about his disciples taking up their cross and following him should be seen against the background of the resurrection.

The vision is given to the disciples to strengthen them in the events to come, and during Lent, we are invited to enter into those events. We are also invited to see our lives as they involve the cross, whatever form that might take for us individually, and to realize that accepting the Cross was the sign that Jesus is the Son of God. To be a disciple of Jesus involves sacrifice of one kind or another: if we consider the sacrifice God and Jesus made for us, then we might see our own cross in a different light. Lent is a joyful season: there is glory after Calvary. ■

LEARN

A cloud is often a biblical symbol for the presence of God.

The Transfiguration event is a vision of Jesus in heavenly glory: it is full of symbolic references.

Peter, James and John are present at several intimate scenes in the story of Jesus.

DO

Consider the cross as you go about your daily life. What is your cross? How could it be your means to glory?

SAY

Lord, it is good for us to be here!

(Matthew 17:4)

