

Transfiguration 2017 - "hear ye him"

The evidence of the Transfiguration is found within the three Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Transfiguration is a theophany – a manifestation of God, especially of the divinity of Christ.

It has now been six days since Jesus had asked the Apostles "Whom do men say that I, the Son man, / am?"

And they had said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

BUT WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM? And Simon Peter answered and said,

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And now via the Transfiguration they see just how accurate these words were.

So often, Jesus goes to a mountain and special events occur,

and this day was not an exception as he took Peter, James, and John (brothers) with him to the mountain

and as Jesus prays

His face became radiant via some sort of supernatural light,

and when they finally focus their eyes / there appears along with Jesus Moses and Elijah.

Here we see the testimony of the Jewish Law and Prophets (the two great sections of the Jewish Scripture) to the Messiahship of Christ

– a proclamation one could say of His Sonship

(and even a foreshadowing His future glory.)

It is said within the Orthodox Church that Moses represents the Law and all those who have died,

and Elijah, those that are alive in Christ (since Elijah did not experience death.)

And then, as if this did not startle and amaze them beyond their ability to understand,

they get scared into submission as now a cloud comes upon them

and covers the mountain and they hear a voice say

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him”

This morning we see the beauty of Scripture, the Old and New Testament inter-twined.

Combined, put together, with them (the Old and New) actually talking to, and with, one another...

take a moment and picture the beauty of this scene described in the Scripture

and then add the icing on the cake as the cloud “comes upon them”

and they even hear the voice of God and the words “Hear ye him.”

“hear ye him”

He did not say hear ye another,

Neither did he say hear (take the parts you want) and ignore the rest,

This is not some buffet line where you take what you want, no Christ gives us a specific diet of which we are feed upon...

you see ..., it is simply said –

HEAR YE HIM.

The word “hear” as used this morning is derived from the Greek word:

akouō Pronunciation

ä-kü'-ō (Key)

Meaning to be endowed with the
faculty of hearing,

to understand, perceive the sense of what is said,

to hear something

to comprehend, and to understand...

we see in Mat 2, that when the wise men arrived and asked “where is he that is born king of the Jews: we read in:

[Mat 2:3](#) When Herod the king had heard [G191](#) *these things* (comprehended and understood,) he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And we see when Jesus uses the word in

Mat 7:26 And every one that heareth ^{G191} these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

So we are not to just HEAR JESUS (to our utmost ability):

we are TO COMPREHEND Him,

TO UNDERSTAND Him - as we best can.

If we hear, comprehend and understand His word, then we will become His People.

He has given for each of us - His all, even His life,

it is now up to us to comprehend, to understand, to finally except his words:

It is He who can and will refresh us;

it is He who came into the world that we not perish, but have everlasting life;

It is He who came into the world to save “sinners”;

and **it is He** who came into the world to be the Propitiation for our sins.

Sound familiar?

You see, we hear these words over and over every week,

so, let me ask you...do you really hear them –

do you comprehend and understand them, and the ramifications they are to have upon your life.

As a Christian you must **Live His words**, put them in your heart, soul, and mind and let them guide you forward.

His words are defined by the scriptures themselves ...

scripture as revealed for two thousand years through His Holy Church.

His words (the Scripture) must be protected and not become infected by being defined by the sinful world in which we live today

(a world of deceit, distortion, and death.)

That is why it is of utmost importance that we feed ourselves,

and especially feed **our children**,

the solid food of His Apostolic and Historic teachings within His Church.

For God has given unto us (of which we are to partake) His Holy Sacraments and he daily He feeds us his Holy Words within Scripture,

of which we partake almost every day within the walls of St. Michael's

it is by doing this, that we can live within the walls of Peace, which is His Church on earth and in heaven.

Open your hearts and let the transfiguration bring you closer to God.

The goal of our faith to know God and it must be more than an

intellectual, academic, analytical exercise...

no – we must feel His power and His Love...

and we come to know Him through the giving of our lives to Him,
 not only for a few hours each week,
 but through our total surrender of self, unto Him,
 that we may fully and truly acknowledge Him as our Saviour.
Not just professing a faith, but by living our faith in all of our endeavors.

Does the total surrender of your life scare you?

Think upon the fear of the Apostles - who fell on their face out of the
 fear of hearing God speak.

And yet, this is exactly what each one of us is called upon to do...

and if we truly hear the words this day,

“HEAR YE HIM,”

then our duty is simple - - - - we are **“to do this.”**

And this can be a scary thing, to step out upon the road of faith –
 to hear the words of Jesus while understanding the difficulty of doing
 them...

but let me read a line of this narrative as found in Gospel of St.
 Matthew

after all this had occurred (the Transfiguration) Jesus then (17:7) And
 Jesus came and touched them, and said,

Arise, and be not afraid.

So I say to each of you today –

be not afraid and arise with ***boldness and devotion*** to do the work of evangelist –

going forth into the world proclaiming His word and showing forth his light in your life.

May this day, and every day that follows, be as the hymn says

That you may:

need Him every hour,

yes, **need him** every hour to / “stay thou near by”,

when you **need him** every hour / “to come quickly and abide”,

when you **need him** every hour / to “teach you His will,”

and to **pray of Him** / “thy rich promises in me (you) fulfill.”

Yes, may God fulfill the rich promises he has made....

Every hour, every day, every year... PRAY OF HIM ... for He is there for you EVERY HOUR ... **HEAR , ARISE,**

go forth and be not afraid.

The hour cometh, and now is.....