

**The Transfiguration  
(Feast, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Year A, B, C)**

**Daniel 7:9-14—The Heavenly Son of Man**

1. Heavenly Throne-Room: “thrones” were placed (7:9)
2. Ancient of Days: a title for the eternal God (7:9)
3. White: appearance of heavenly being (7:9)
4. Son of Man: “one like a son of man” (7:14)
5. Clouds: coming with the “clouds” (7:14; cf. Ezek 1)
6. Eternal Kingdom: he is given a “kingdom” (7:14)

**Psalms 97—The Lord is King over All the Earth**

1. King: all shall “see” the “glory” of the king (Ps 95:1-2, 5-6)

**Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36—The Transfiguration**

1. Theophany: Jesus takes Peter, James, and John (cf. Exod 24:1, 9-11)
2. Transfigured: Jesus was “transfigured” (Greek *metamorphoō*)
3. Heavenly Being: Jesus appears as a heavenly being
  - a. Face: shone “like the sun” (cf. Ps 104:2)
  - b. Garments: became “white as light” (cf. Dan 7:9)
4. Moses and Elijah: both experienced theophanies on Mount Sinai
  - a. Moses: “show me your glory” (Exod 33:18-23)
  - b. Elijah: wraps his “face” in his cloak (1 Kings 19:9-14)
5. Tabernacles: build a sanctuary for the deity (cf. Exod 25:1-9)
6. Son of God: Jesus is revealed as heavenly “Son” of God

**Living Tradition**

Catechism: Taking the desert road that leads to the place where the living and true God reveals himself to his people, Elijah, like Moses before him, hides “in a cleft of the rock” until the mysterious presence of God has passed by. *But only on the mountain of the Transfiguration will Moses and Elijah behold the unveiled face of him whom they sought...*(CCC 2583)

St. Thomas Aquinas: *The whole Trinity appeared: the Father in the voice; the Son in the man; the Spirit in the shining cloud.*” (Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* III, q. 45, art. 4, cited in CCC 555)

Byzantine Liturgy: You were transfigured on the mountain, and your disciples, as much as they were capable of it, beheld your glory, O Christ our God, so that when they should see you crucified they would understand that your Passion was voluntary, and proclaim to the world that you truly are the splendor of the Father. (Byzantine Liturgy, Feast of the Transfiguration, *Kontakion*, cited in CCC 555)

Catechism: Jesus’ baptism proclaimed “the mystery of the first regeneration,” namely, our Baptism; the Transfiguration “is the sacrament of the second regeneration”: our own Resurrection (CCC 556, quoting Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* III, q. 45, art. 4)

## Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Feast, August 6th, Year ABC)

1. Why is the feast of the transfiguration so important? What meaning does it have for us today in our own spiritual lives?

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## For Further Reading

1. Ludolf of Saxony. *The Life of Jesus Christ, Part Two: Volume 1, Chapters 1-57*. Translated by Milton J. Walsh. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2021.