

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



The Transfiguration of the Lord

6 August 2023 - Year A

"Jesus' face shone like the sun."

Something to Think About

Have you ever heard God speaking in your heart? How would you react if you heard God's voice speaking to you from the clouds? Would you be frightened? Surprised? Excited?

The Story

In the gospel reading today, Jesus goes up a mountain with three of his friends. His clothes become bright like a light and his face shines like the sun. Two important men, Moses and Elijah, are seen with Jesus. They lived long before Jesus, and were highly respected because they had always obeyed God. Then, God speaks from a cloud and says something important about who Jesus is. The disciples are terrified when they hear the voice, but Jesus tells them not to be afraid.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter and the brothers James and John with him. They went up on a very high mountain where they could be alone. There in front of the disciples Jesus was completely changed. His face was shining like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

All at once Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus. So Peter said to him, "Lord, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was still speaking, the shadow of a bright cloud passed over them. From the cloud a voice said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him. Listen to what he says!"

When the disciples heard the voice, they were so afraid that they fell flat on the ground. But Jesus came over and touched them. He said, "Get up and don't be afraid!" When they opened their eyes, they saw only Jesus.

On their way down from the mountain, Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Son of Man had been raised from death.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video: [The Transfiguration](#)



Group Discussion

What is the best thing that has ever happened to you? Did you wish that you could stay in that moment forever? Does that special time still have importance for you today?

The shining image of Jesus on the mountaintop showed the disciples a glimpse of God's glory. The brilliant vision of Jesus gave the disciples strength to face the hard times ahead. The dazzling vision of Jesus shown in today's Gospel helps us, as followers of Jesus, to find hope in hard times too.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will work to change the world for the better. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will spend time in prayer listening to Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for those who are afraid, that they might find courage. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for hearts full of gratitude for the gifts of creation. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for people with troubles or worries, that they will find hope. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

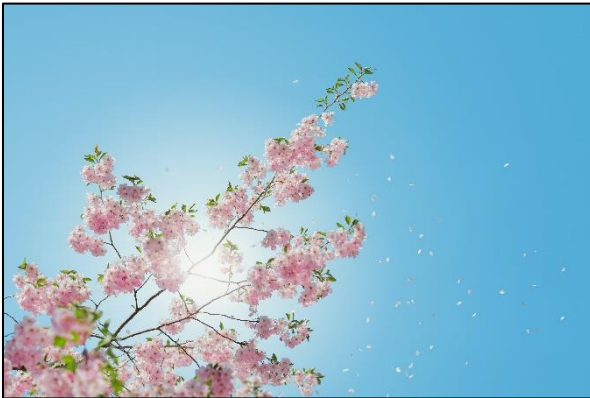
Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to our prayers in the name of the risen Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,
Thank you for sending your Son,
Jesus, to be with us.
Help us to grow more like him.
Amen.

Group Activity

Jesus on the Mountain

Each child will need: a blank A3 sheet of paper, coloured pencils or markers, highlighter pens, glitter.

1. Invite the children to draw a picture of the Transfiguration. You might like to take children outside for this activity.
2. Display the finished pictures to create a place for prayer. Lead the children in spending some time in silence, imagining they were one of the disciples who witnessed Jesus being transfigured on the mountaintop.



THE TRANSFIGURATION



**JESUS TOOK THREE OF THE APOSTLES
(PETER, JOHN AND JAMES)
UP A MOUNTAIN TO PRAY.
HIS CLOTHES SHONE WITH LIGHT.**

CUT OUT THESE FIGURES OF JESUS AND THE APOSTLES
AND GLUE THEM ONTO THE MOUNTAIN

