



TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

A reading from Exodus.

¹²The LORD said to Moses,
“Come up to me on the mountain and wait there;
I will give you the tablets of stone,
with the law and the commandment,
which I have written for their instruction.”

¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua,
and Moses went up onto the mountain of God.

¹⁴To the elders he had said,
“Wait here for us, until we come back to you.
Look, Aaron and Hur are with you;
whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain,
and the cloud covered the mountain.

¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai,
and the cloud covered it for six days;
on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD
was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain
in the sight of the Israelites.

¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain.
Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

FIRST READING *Sinai = SY-ny*

“Now the appearance . . . was like a devouring fire.” Let the reading sound like a devouring fire. Let it be full of majesty and awe as well as a little fearsome heat! An effective reading need not be loud, but it will be intense.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

A reading from Second Peter.

¹⁶We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.

¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING *prophecy = PROF-uh-see*

This eyewitness recollection of the transfiguration of our Lord anticipates today’s gospel in which the whole of that story is told. It echoes the experience of Moses in the first reading as an eyewitness to the majesty of God. This text requires a sense of majesty and awe coupled with the sound of apostolic instruction and authority.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

¹Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

²And he was transfigured before them,
and his face shone like the sun,
and his clothes became bright as light.

³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

⁴Then Peter said to Jesus,
“Lord, it is good for us to be here;
if you wish, I will set up three tents here,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them,
and a voice from the cloud said,

“This is my Son, the Beloved;
with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”

⁶When the disciples heard this,
they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
“Get up and do not be afraid.”

⁸And when they raised their eyes,
they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain,
Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision
until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Help the hearer sense a vision that was breathtaking. Verse 2 ought to sound “awe-full.” See the vision; don’t settle for describing it.