

EYEWITNESS TO HIS GLORY

[Article from Vestal Publishing]

As our Lord's public ministry was coming to an end, He found Himself making that final journey to Jerusalem to confront His destiny. Before His suffering and ultimate death on the Cross, Jesus wanted to give His Apostles a glimpse of His Divinity, so that they might be able to better endure the dark days that would lie ahead. He ordered Peter, James and John to accompany Him on a rugged climb to the peak of Mount Tabor. Here He would be "changed" before their very eyes, with "...His face shining as the sun and His garments becoming white as snow." The 3 Apostles would also see a vision of Moses and Elijah of the Old Testament appearing with the transfigured Christ, causing Peter to cry out: "Lord, it is good for us to be here!" (Matthew 17:4) In an instant, however, this miraculous event was over, and Christ and His faithful followers had to leave this radiant setting behind and embark along the rugged road to Golgotha. It would be a while before Peter and the others would comprehend the magnitude of what they had been privileged to see. Truly, they had been "eyewitnesses" to the glory of God, as Peter would write about later in one of his epistles.

Our Lord's Transfiguration should serve to remind us that we, too, are "eyewitnesses" to God's glory. We repeatedly see how He touches the lives of all of us—how bestows His many blessings upon us and answers our prayers. We see His love for us constantly. When we are faithful, great things are revealed to us—just as they were to Peter, James and John on Mount Tabor. Yes, it is good for us to be here in our own Christian communities as we strive to further the growth of the Kingdom of God on earth. If our efforts are sincere, rest assured that we will, one day, bask in the Light of Christ forever in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



August 4, 2019

7th Sunday of Matthew

930 Lunalilo Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 521-7220 www.greekorthodoxhawaii.org
Office: office@greekorthodoxhawaii.org
Fr. Alexander Leong: fralexanderleong@yahoo.com

August 4, 2019

7th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Angelike thinamis (Hymn of the Day) Tone 6

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded it became still as dead, and standing by Your grave was Mary seeking Your most pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin (woman), bestowing the gift of life. You who have risen from the dead, Lord glory to You.

Tu Stavru su ton tipon (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.

Kontakion Tone 7

Epi tu Orus metemorphosis

Upon the mountain were You transfigured, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they were able, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified they might understand that Your Passion was deliberate, and declare to the world that in truth You are the Father's radiance. (AgesInitiatives.com)

Epistle Reading Romans 15:1-7

BRETHREN, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Gospel Reading Matthew 9:27-35

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Today

✠ SUN, 8/4– *7th Sunday of Matthew; Sunday School Meeting 12 p.m.*

This Week

✠ MON, 8/5– *Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.*

✠ TUE, 8/6– *Transfiguration of our Lord: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.*

✠ THU, 8/8– *Paraklesis (Supplications to the Theotokos) 6:30 p.m.*

✠ FRI, 8/9– *Paraklesis (Supplications to the Theotokos) 6:30 p.m.*

✠ SAT, 8/10– *Great Vespers 5:30 p.m.*

✠ SUN, 8/11– *8th Sunday of Matthew*

On Sunday, August 18, 3-3:45 p.m., our Greek Dance Groups will be performing at Ala Moana Center Stage. Please come and support us.

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Let us be satisfied simply with what sustains our present life, not with what pampers it. Let us pray to God for this, as we have been taught, so that we may keep our souls unenslaved and absolutely free from domination by any of the visible things loved for the sake of the body. Let us show that we eat for the sake of living, and not be guilty of living for the sake of eating. The first is a sign of intelligence, the second proof of its absence."

~St. Maximos the Confessor

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.