

The Transfiguration

6th August 2017

Collect

O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of the Fathers and wonderfully prefigured our full adoption to sonship, grant, we pray, to your servants, that, listening to the voice of your beloved Son, we may merit to become coheirs with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Daniel
7:9-10,13-14

As I watched:
Thrones were set in place
and one of great age took his seat.
His robe was white as snow,
the hair of his head as pure as wool.
His throne was a blaze of flames,
its wheels were a burning fire.
A stream of fire poured out,
issuing from his presence.
A thousand thousand waited on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
A court was held
and the books were opened.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages
became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 96:1-2,5-6,9

R/. The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right. **R/.**

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. **R/.**

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth,
exalted far above all spirits. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Peter
1:16-19

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt17:5

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is my Son, the Beloved:
he enjoys my favour.
Listen to him.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Lectionary Year A

the word of god

saint of the week

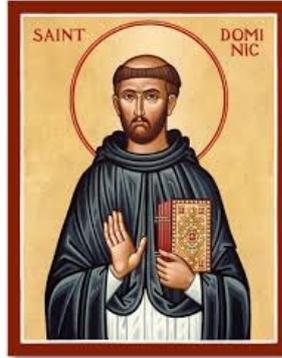
The Transfiguration is a huge revelation of the glory at the heart of all things. However our lives are diminished by disappointment, failure, suffering, illness, disability, age and sorrow, there is here a revelation of the extraordinary presence of glory at the heart of all life. And it not just a comfort in adversity, it is a promise of eternal life. At the Transfiguration, the apostles were granted a vision of the life to come, a life that they would share. They were granted also to see that the life to come, for which they were destined, was active in this world of troubles and sorrows. Resurrection is working away within the downward trajectory of the things of this world in order to lift them up, not just after death, but also before.

To live in this world of ours is not easy, because we are torn between the pains and compromises of our physicality and the glory that is at the heart of life. It is an odd existence as we are poised between earth and heaven, tasting a little of each, but it is has been the destiny of humanity from the beginning, the gift of the good God who created us out of the earth and bestowed upon us the stewardship of all things, and who breathed into us not just our life, but his. We are God's people, blessed by hope, suffused by glory, called to be one with Him and with those who have gone before us in the Kingdom that will have no end. In the Transfiguration, we are shown a picture of all this, so that we may understand, and hope, and be uplifted by the glory of the God who is calling us to himself and bringing all things to fulfilment. Not for nothing does the priest say at every mass, "Lift up your hearts." Amen.



Tuesday 8th August 2017

St Dominic (1170 - 1221)



He was born in Castile (part of modern Spain) and became a canon of the cathedral of Osma. He accompanied his bishop (Diego de Azevedo) in a mission of preaching against the Albigensian heresy, which was then strong in southern France. While the official missions lived in formality and splendour, Dominic and Diego lived in extreme poverty, and prepared with great diligence

for the debates that they held with their opponents. When the suppression of Albigensianism was undertaken by invasion and war of a particularly savage kind, Dominic continued to try to preach and persuade.

In 1216 he founded the Order of Preachers, dedicated to saving souls by preaching and persuasion. Like the Franciscans, founded a few years before, the Dominicans put great importance on poverty, both of the individual and of the community, and of the need to be involved directly in the world while still living some form of monastic life. At a time when the settled Benedictine monasteries had grown into great and rich institutions, this was a revolutionary and to some a subversive concept. The Friars made a lasting impact on the life of mediaeval Europe, and the Dominicans in particular altered the course of intellectual history by making a well-thought-out and rational response to the new learning that was appearing as long-forgotten thinkers such as Aristotle became known once more in the Christian West.

Dominic died at Bologna on 6th August 1221.

prayer of the week

Prayer of St Dominic

May God the Father who made
us bless us.

May God the Son send his
healing among us.

May God the Holy Spirit move
within us and give us eyes to see with,
ears to hear with, and hands that your work might
be done.

May we walk and preach the Word of God to all.

May the angel of peace watch over us
and lead us at last by God's

grace to the Kingdom.

Amen.