



Light on the Mountain: Greek Patristic and Byzantine Homilies on the Transfiguration of the Lord, PPS48 (Popular Patristics)

Brian E. Daley S.J.

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The episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus plays a key role in the narrative of the Synoptic Gospels. Peter and his fellow Apostles have just acknowledged Jesus to be Israel's long-awaited Messiah, and have been shocked by Jesus' immediate prediction of his coming passion and death. Now Peter, James and John are allowed to share an extraordinary vision, marking him out as truly God's own Son, radiant with divine glory. Early Christian commentators and preachers recognized the crucial importance of this incident for Christian faith and discipleship, as pointing in advance to the power of the cross and resurrection of Christ. The liturgical feast of the Transfiguration, anticipating that of the Exaltation of the Cross by forty days, came to be celebrated in the Eastern and Western Churches, beginning in the seventh century; yet since at least the third century, theologians have reflected on the significance of this event for the life of faith.

This volume brings together, in a new translation, a comprehensive collection of homilies on the Transfiguration of Christ from the Greek Patristic and Medieval Church, from Origen in the third century to St. Gregory Palamas in the fourteenth. Together they form a profound and moving set of meditations, from many perspectives and in many voices, on the light of the recognition of the glory of God in the face of Christ (II Cor 4.6), and on its importance for our lives.

Homilies include:

Origen, Commentary on Matthew 12.36-43 (on Matthew 17.1-9)
John Chrysostom, Homily 56 on Matthew (on Matthew 16.28-17.9)
Proclus of Constantinople, Homily on the Transfiguration
Cyril of Alexandria, Homily 51 on Luke (on Luke 9.27-36)
Pantoleon, Sermon on the Transfiguration of the Lord
Leontius, Presbyter of Constantinople, Homily on the Transfiguration (Homily 14)
Patriarch Anastasius I of Antioch, Homily on the Transfiguration (Homily 1)
Timothy of Antioch, Homily on the Cross and Transfiguration of Jesus
Anonymous Incomplete Homily on the Transfiguration (7th-9th centuries)
Anastasius of Sinai, Homily for Feast of the Transfiguration
Andrew of Crete, Homily for the Feast of the Transfiguration
John of Damascus, Homily for the Feast of the Transfiguration
Emperor Leo VI (Leo the Wise), Three Homilies for the Feast of the Transfiguration, Homily 10, Homily 11, Homily 39
Philagathos of Cerami, Homily on the Feast of the Saving Transfiguration (Homily 31)
Neophytos the Recluse, Catechesis on the Transfiguration
Theoleptos of Philadelphia, Catechesis for the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Nikephoros Choumnos, On the Holy Transfiguration of Christ
Pseudo-Chrysostom, Discourse on the Feast of the Transfiguration (Sicily, 14th century?)

Gregory the Sinaite, Discourse on the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord

Gregory Palamas, Two Homilies for the Feast of the Transfiguration, Homily 34 and Homily 35

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Christopher Palmer:

In this particular era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more treasured

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