



CELEBRATING AT HOME

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

*Transfigured in Christ (Matthew 17:1-9)*



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### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church  
in this moment of prayer.**

### Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,

**you are our Way.**

Lord Jesus,

**you are our Truth.**

Lord Jesus,

**you are our Life.**

### Scripture Reading (*Matthew 17:1-9*)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As 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."

### Reflection - *Transfigured in Christ*

In the Hebrew Scriptures high mountains were traditionally seen as holy places where one could encounter God. It was on the summit of Mt Sinai that Moses received the Law from God (Ex 19) and it was

on Mt Horeb that Elijah encountered God in the gentle breeze (1Kings 19:9ff). So, it should come as no surprise that it is on a mountain that the disciples encounter the glorified divinity of Christ.

The transfigured Jesus is shown to the disciples together with Moses and Elijah who, in Jewish tradition, represent the Law and the Prophets. In Jesus, these two great traditions reach their proper fulfilment. Moses and Elijah are also the two figures in the Hebrew scriptures who have direct, personal encounters with God.

Perhaps that affirms that the disciples encounter God in and through their encounter with Christ.

Peter is delighted by this glimpse of the glorified Christ and wants to commemorate the experience by building three tents. But the voice of God interrupts Peter's request. God seems to say, 'Forget about building tents, Peter, the important thing is to listen to my beloved Son'.

Through our deep attention to the word of God spoken in Jesus we remain in contact with the heart of God, allowing God's love to transform and transfigure us and to 'burst forth' in goodness.

Being transfigured is a revolution of mind and heart driven by God's Spirit and enabled by our open heartedness to God's Word. When we are 'shot through' with the presence of God, God can be seen in, and experienced through, us.

It takes faith and perseverance to dare to allow ourselves to be tempted by the passion, hope and vision of God rather than our own desires and wants. It takes great faith to trust in God's word to us. But if we do, the living word of the Chosen One forms in us the heart of God.

### Prayers of Intercession

Transfigure our doubt with the radiance of your hope.

**Transfigure our world with the light of your loving presence.**

Transfigure our weakness with the power of your healing.

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### Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,  
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

### Closing Prayer

Gracious God,  
shine the light of the transfigured Lord  
upon each of us.  
Transform us into the likeness of your Son  
and make us ready and eager  
to grow in love for you and one another.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Blessing

May your blessing be with us, O Lord,  
keeping us safe,  
and bringing us to life.  
**Amen.**



# Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when many cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



**The Carmelites**  
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