

# Read

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9

2 Peter 1:16-19

Matthew 17:1-9

## LIVING THE WORD

# Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

August 6, 2023



## REFLECTION

Peter's reaction to Christ's transfiguration on the mountaintop is so human! He sees Christ in glory, conversing with the prophets Moses and Elijah, and enthusiastically offers to pitch tents for all three. The tents would be a place to shelter for a longer stay on the mountain and also a place of worship, in keeping with his Jewish forbearers who pitched tents to house the presence of God.

Either way, Peter clearly wants to stay on the mountain in the glory and power of Christ's presence. The Church calls this kind of particularly clear and comforting experience of God's love and power a "consolation." Consolations are gifts of the Spirit meant to comfort and encourage us on our spiritual journeys. The opposite of consolation is desolation, when God's power seems distant and it is hard to think or see past our own thoughts and fears. The consolations of the mountaintop didn't last very long for Peter. Only a short while later, Peter would experience desolation while witnessing the trial of Jesus, leading him to deny Jesus three times. He saw the glory of the transfiguration, but he didn't understand the message!



## ACTION

Think of moments of consolation and desolation in your life. How can you let the truth revealed to you in times of consolation bring you courage through spiritually dry times? Consider starting a prayer journal so you can see the action of the Holy Spirit at work in your life over time.

**"If God sends you many sufferings, it is a sign he has great plans for you and certainly wants to make you a saint."**

—St. Ignatius of Loyola 



## QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Peter experienced some of the greatest highs and lows of any apostle. What can we learn from his perseverance despite his errors?
- ❖ What does God's choice of Peter suggest to you about how God sees your faults and virtues?