

# THE FESTIVAL OF TRANSFIGURATION - KOODAARA PERUNNAL

## (AUGUST 6TH 2006)

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, August 6th is the last Sunday after Pentecost – The Transfiguration of our Lord, (called “Koodaara Perunnal” in Malayalam). The Holy Orthodox Church celebrates the glorious Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ, on August 6<sup>th</sup> every year. This day is one of the major feast days. By His Transfiguration, the Saviour has showed us how people become in the future life in the Kingdom of Heaven, if they follow God’s Law; it also shows how the entire earthly world would be transfigured. The Lord also reminds us that we can be transfigured even now if we lead a truly Christian life.

In order to strengthen the faith of His disciples, Jesus Christ took three of them, Peter, James and John, and led them up on the beautiful Mount Tabor to pray. As the Saviour was praying, the disciples slept from fatigue. When they woke up, they saw Jesus Christ transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun and His garments became white as snow and glistened as light. There, two prophets, Moses and Elijah, in heavenly glory appeared with Him, and they were talking with Jesus about the suffering and death which He would have to endure in Jerusalem. Extraordinary joy filled the hearts of the disciples during this time. Peter exclaimed, "Lord, it is well that we are here. If You wish, I will make three tents (koodaaram) here: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not understanding what He was saying. Suddenly, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and they heard the voice of God the Father saying, "*This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!*".

When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces. Jesus Christ came to them, touched them, and said, “Rise, and have no fear.” When the disciples lifted up their eyes, they saw Jesus Christ as He usually appeared. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus Christ commanded them to tell no one about the vision until He was raised from the dead.

The Transfiguration reminds us that even though Jesus is God, nothing is too small for Him to handle or He is never too busy to handle the big things that troubles us. The Transfiguration experience does highlight the glory of Jesus. The voice of God affirmed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The ministries of Moses and Elijah both featured suffering and rejection, and Jesus would endure those things at a deeper level.

Lord, keep us always alert and awake to you, to your word, your action, and your daily presence in our life. Let us see your glory.”

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.**

**Bible readings for Sunday, August 6th, 2006. (The Festival of Transfiguration)**

### **Before Holy Qurbana:**

Deuteronomy	-	16: 13-17
Psalms	-	24: 1-10
Isaiah	-	60: 12-15, 61: 1-3

### **Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles:	<b>I John</b>	-	<b>2: 23 3:1</b>
Epistles of St. Paul:	<b>Romans</b>	-	<b>11: 25-36</b>
Holy Gospel:	<b>St. Luke</b>	-	<b>9: 27-36</b>

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex