

August 5.

G † *Forefeast of the Transfigurations of our Lord Jesus Christ*

In the church hymns for this day: "O Faithful, brightly celebrating today the Forefeast of the glorious and awesome Transfiguration of Christ" and "it is brightly festive", "let us meet in advance the Transfiguration of Christ", "let us prepare ourselves well in the morning" and "let us intelligently cleanse ourselves beforehand for the mount, that we may ascend Tabor to see Christ", and "let us behold the glory of His transfiguration, the glory of the Only-begotten of the Father", "and there let us hear the voice of the Living God, the Unoriginate Father, in a bright cloud witnessing with the Divine Spirit, to His relationship of eternal sonship", "and being exalted in spirit, let us ever sing praises to the Coessential Trinity".

Troparion, tone 4

**Let us meet in advance the Transfiguration of Christ, O Faithful,
Let us brightly celebrate the Forefeast and cry out:
The day of divine gladness is at hand,
The Master ascends Mount Tabor
To glow in the beauty of His Divinity.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**Today all human nature
Divinely reflects the divine transfiguration,
Calling out in gladness:
Christ is transfigured, saving us all.**

See in the Typikon: From August 5 till August 13 (from the Forefeast up to the Leave-taking of Transfiguration), except for the feast itself, the Katabasia is: *The hosts of Israel.*

If the Forefeast falls on a Sunday, we sing the Three Ode Canon in Compline.

Mark the chapter in the Ustav [Typikon] and Menaion: If the Forefeast of the Transfiguration of Christ falls on a Sunday.

Holy Martyr Eusignius

He was born in Antioch and was a warrior during the reigns of Emperors Diocletian, Maximinian and Constantine the Great. He served in the military calling for all of 60 years. Then having returned home, he began to carry out his life in prayer and fasting, preparing him for eternity. During the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate, St. Eusignius was brought to court for his confession of Christ. According to the church hymns, the Martyr Eusignius, "knowing the living God, the Lord in the heavens", did not render "honor in the dead pagan temple", through

patience has defeated "the harshness of the torturer" and stood "before the judgment seat, confessing God". He was not afraid to accuse the same emperor of apostasy from the true faith. Then he was condemned to beheading by the sword. St. Eusignius died at the age of 110 years.

Martyrs Cantidius and Cantidiana were stoned to death in Egypt.

Martyr Sibelius was killed by arrows in Egypt for his faith in Christ.

Martyr Pontius

The Roman senator, converted to Christ by St. Fabian, very much helped St. Fabian in converting Emperor Phillip the Arabian to Christ. During the Valerian persecution St. Pontius was executed by the sword in Cimella [Cimiez] (near the present day Nice) about 257. His relics subsequently were transferred to Nice.

Hieromartyrs Fabian and Antherus, Popes of Rome

St. Fabian (Fabianus) occupied the hierarchical see from 236 to 250. He was elected by simple rural priests under special instruction from above. As a hierarch he was a zealous preacher of the teachings of Christ. He enlightened the Emperor Phillip the Arabian and his son with the light of the truth of Christ. During the persecution of Decius, St. Fabian was executed by the sword. His relics repose in Rome in the Church of St. Praxedes. St. Antherus, the predecessor of St. Fabian, embodied his faith in Christ by a martyr's death in 236. His relics repose in Rome in the Church of St. Sylvester.

Holy Righteous Nonna, mother of St. Gregory the Theologian



Since childhood she was brought up in the rules of Christian piety. She married a rich pagan Gregory whom she converted to Christ. Later he became bishop of Nazianzus. She tried to transfer her piety and burning zealousness of faith to her great son St. Gregory the Theologian. Toward the end her life St. Nonna worked hard as a deaconess. She died in 374.

S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0270-0271
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