

TRANSFIGURING BEAUTY

Mark 9:2-10



For personal prayer

CONTEMPLATING THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD

(from Psalm 27)

The Lord is my light and my salvation:
whom do I fear?

The Lord is my life's refuge:
of whom am I afraid?

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart does not fear;
though war be waged against me, even then do I trust.

One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek:
to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life,
to gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit his temple.

For God will hide me in his shelter in time of trouble,
he will conceal me in the cover of his tent,
and set me high upon a rock. Amen!

For personal reflection

The transfiguring beauty of the Lord Jesus is manifested "on a high mountain" (Mk. 9:2). Mark does not give the mountain a name, reminding us by this omission that the true "mountain of God," to be climbed through loving and obedient listening, is Christ. On our journey, we must follow three narrow, ascending paths: that of *solitude*, of the *community* and of *beauty*. Traveling the first path, we are purified and unified through silence so that the Spirit might dwell in our hearts. On the second path, community life strips and teaches us, freeing us from false expectations. The third path can be followed only through profound intimacy with God who, through the Spirit, makes us more and more like Jesus. On the "Mount of Transfiguration," each person becomes what he/she contemplates and loves. Those who approach the light are transformed into light and guide others and the world to the fulfillment of God's promise.