

**OUR LORD'S TRANSFIGURATION**

Although not specifically mentioned in any of the 3 Gospels that describe this event, MT TABOR has long been revered as the site of our Lord's Transfiguration. The first Church was built upon it in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century and today, both the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches have a presence there. Located in the region of Lower Galilee, the mountain rises to an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet. Although this is not considered to be terribly high, its size dominated the level landscape around the Jezreel Valley, which it overlooks. The view from the top of Mt. Tabor is breathtaking, but reaching it is a grueling task – even today. Tour buses are permitted to only go so far; then pilgrims proceed by foot, or catch a ride with local drivers. With its winding trails and rugged terrain, one can only imagine how difficult it was for our Lord – accompanied by Peter, James and John – to make that challenging climb.

What occurred on Mt. Tabor is shrouded in mystery. While praying there, Jesus was suddenly joined by Moses and Elijah. The symbolism here should be quite clear to us: Our Lord was the fulfillment of the law – represented by Moses and the words of the Prophets – represented by Elijah. The apostles present were privileged to catch a glimpse of Christ's glory, as “. . . *His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow.*” (Matt 17:2). Adding to the drama of the Transfiguration was the Voice of the Father, Who proclaimed: “This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.” (Matt 17:5). This heavenly happening was all too brief; in an instant it was over, and Christ would come down from the mountain and embark upon an ever more grueling walk to Golgotha.