

The Transfiguration in Art  
March 12, 2025

- I. Introduction
- II. The Transfiguration event: read below
- III. Giovanni Bellini (1430-1516)
- IV. View “Transfiguration,” 1479, Naples
- V. Raphael (1483-1520)
- VI. View “Transfiguration,” 1520, Vatican City
- VII. Ludovico Carracci (1555-1619)
- VIII. View “Transfiguration,” 1595, Bologna
- IX. Lessons
- X. Prayer

Matthew 17:1-20

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.” <sup>10</sup> And the disciples asked him, “Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” <sup>11</sup> He replied, “Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things, <sup>12</sup> but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands.” <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

<sup>14</sup> When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, <sup>15</sup> and said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has epilepsy and suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. <sup>16</sup> And I brought him to your

disciples, but they could not cure him.”<sup>17</sup> Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.”<sup>18</sup> And Jesus rebuked the demon,<sup>[c]</sup> and it came out of him, and the boy was cured from that moment.<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”<sup>20</sup> He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”