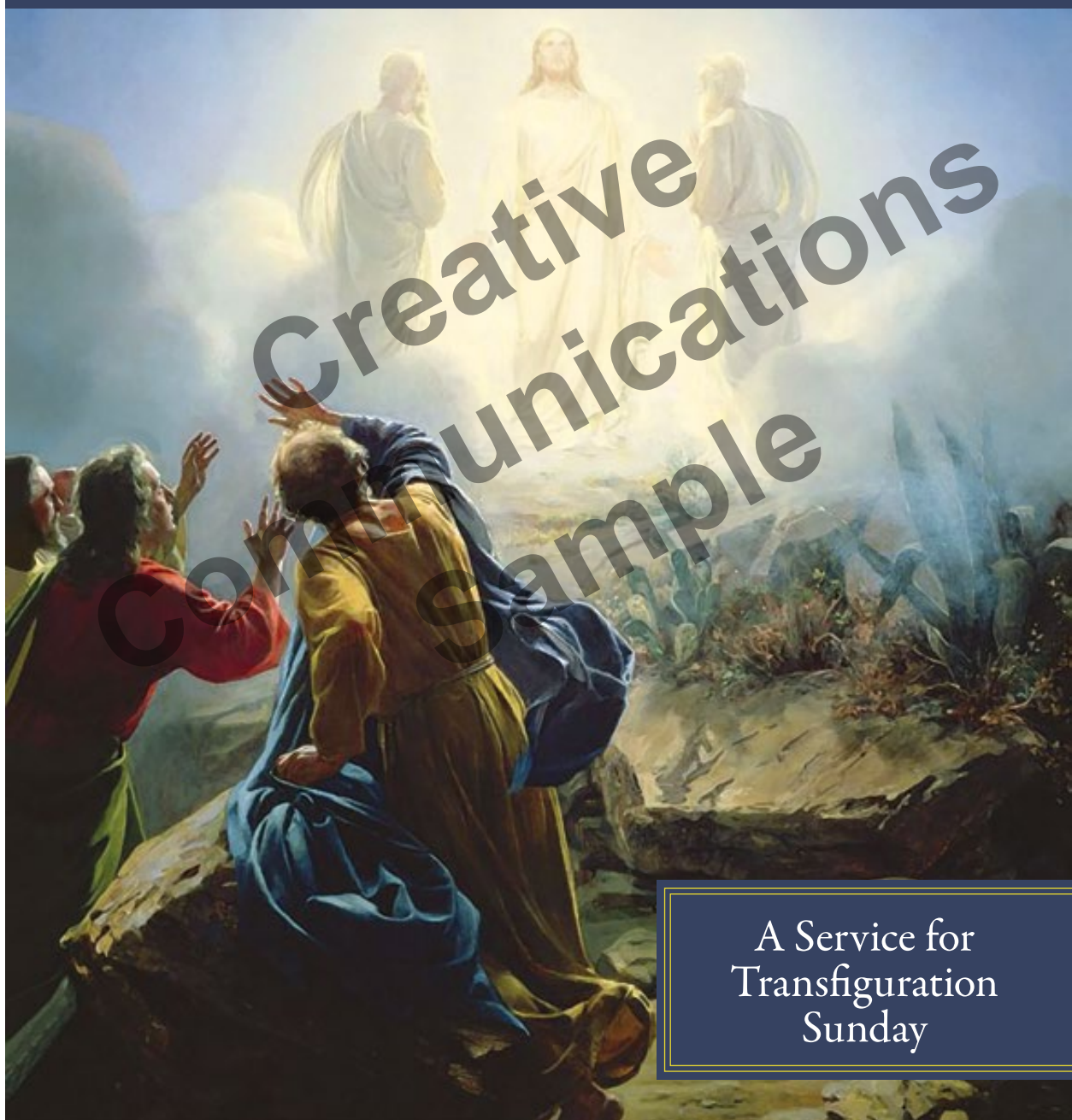


# EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY



A Service for  
Transfiguration  
Sunday

**Creative  
Communications  
Sample**

# EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY

A Service for Transfiguration Sunday

**LEADER'S GUIDE**

# EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY

A Service for Transfiguration Sunday

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# EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY

A Service for Transfiguration Sunday

## ABOUT THE SERVICE

*Eyewitnesses of His Majesty is a complete order of service for Transfiguration Sunday. After Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples who witnessed his transfiguration told others what they had seen. We see Jesus' glory revealed in the Word, and we too are witnesses to his majesty. We have a story to tell! The service offers Bible readings, a sermon, a children's message, prayers and hymns, including "O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair!" and "Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here."*

# EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY

A Service for Transfiguration Sunday

## NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

### NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a special service for Transfiguration Sunday entitled Eyewitnesses of His Majesty. After Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples who witnessed his transfiguration told others what they had seen. We see Jesus' glory revealed in the Word, and we too are witnesses to his majesty. We have a story to tell! The service offers Bible readings, a sermon, a children's message, prayers and hymns, including "O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair!" and "'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here" to help you in your calling to live by faith as eyewitnesses of his majesty.

### BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to this special service for Transfiguration Sunday entitled Eyewitnesses of His Majesty. After Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples who witnessed his transfiguration told others what they had seen. We see Jesus' glory revealed in the Word, and we too are witnesses to his majesty. We have a story to tell! Let the Bible readings, sermon, children's message, prayers and hymns help you in your calling as eyewitnesses of his majesty.

# EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

*We were eyewitnesses of his majesty ... for we were with him  
on the holy mountain. 2 Peter 1:16-18*

Opening Hymn..... Deo Gracias LM

O wondrous type! O vision fair  
Of glory that the Church may share,  
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,  
Where brighter than the sun he glows!

With Moses and Elijah nigh  
The incarnate Lord holds converse high;  
And from the cloud the Holy One  
Bears record to the only Son.

With shining face and bright array  
Christ deigns to manifest today  
What glory shall be theirs above  
Who joy in God with perfect love.

Invocation and Responsive Reading of Psalm 145:1-6

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

**C** Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

**P** Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

**C** One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

**P** On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**C** They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

Confession and Absolution

**P** Let us confess our sins and ask God's forgiveness.

**C** Almighty God, we are called in Christ to be witnesses to your glory and majesty, but we seek instead our own glory. We follow our own selfish desires and listen to the temptations of the world around us. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

**P** God has had mercy on you. He sent his Son to be your Savior, to suffer the penalty for sin that you have earned and to rise from death to give you new life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C** I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever!

Prayer of the Day

Hymn ..... Deo Gracias LM

O Father, with the eternal Son  
And Holy Spirit ever one,  
We pray thee, bring us by thy grace  
To see thy glory face to face.

Children's Message



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## SERMON

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

▣ Glory! What is it exactly? Whatever it is, rock stars seem to have it. Top athletes, as long as they are winning, have it too, as do some of the more well known musicians and movie stars. Others have glory too, and we know they have earned it by their sacrifices on behalf of others—these include the heroes who are members of our military, those who serve as fire fighters or police or rescue workers, those in medical fields who work to save the lives of others and many more. These people have honor and glory, and we know they deserve it.

Even if we are not entirely clear on just what glory is, we want it, or at least we want to share in it or to get close to it. If we can just get close enough, maybe the glory of the rock star or the athlete will wash over us too. There is just something about being in the presence of such greatness and glory. We want a taste of glory for ourselves, but are we willing to do what it takes to earn it? Maybe not so much.

Moses wanted to see glory too. Moses was the prophet who, Scripture tells us, “the Lord knew face to face (Deuteronomy 34:10). Moses had seen so much. Standing before a bush that burned but was not consumed in the flames, Moses had seen and spoken with the God of Israel. He had seen the mighty acts of God against the Egyptians as the Lord set his people free. Moses wanted to see more. He asked the Lord, “Please show me your glory.” But that could not safely happen. Moses would be allowed to see the goodness of the Lord and to know his holy name, “I AM,” but he could not see God in his

majestic splendor. The Lord knew Moses face to face, but Moses would not be allowed to know God face to face. God said, “You cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” Instead God hid Moses in a cleft in the rock, covering him and letting his prophet see only his “back,” his departing glory—perhaps just the barest glimpse of fading splendor.

Scripture says, “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2). God spoke to Moses and the other prophets, but finally God spoke to us—face to face—in the person of his Son. The disciples of our Lord Jesus had more than a passing glimpse of God. Daily they saw God face to face—not in his majestic, blinding glory, but in human flesh—in Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus’ disciple Philip once asked something very much like Moses’ request, “Lord, show us the Father and it is enough for us.” Jesus replied, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

Still, there was more to be seen and there was more to come. Jesus gave three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, a greater glimpse of his divine majesty. Taking them up to a mountain, Jesus was transfigured before them. His ordinary appearance changed as he was revealed in heavenly splendor. His face shone like the sun and his clothing became white as light. The Old Testament prophets Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke with Jesus about his death and resurrection, events that would soon take place. Then, as a bright cloud moved over them, the disciples heard the voice of God the Father: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” The disciples saw the divine glory and heard the voice of God—and they were terrified. The three men fell face down to the ground until Jesus, the glory having faded away, came and touched them and raised them up. What a story they had to tell the other disciples, and anyone else who would listen! But Jesus told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until he had risen from the dead. It was not yet time for that story to be told.

What the three disciples had seen was just a glimpse, a preview, of Jesus in his exalted glory. But that glory would come by way of the cross. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus prayed to his heavenly Father: “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed” (John 17:1-5). The hour had come. The Son would be glorified in the saving work for which he had come.

Moses had once asked to see God’s glory face to face, but he would not have survived such an encounter. Instead God allowed only a hidden glimpse of glory to be seen. In much the same way, the glory and power of God would be hidden—and yet at the same time displayed for the world to see—in the weakness and humiliation of the cross. Through Jesus’ suffering and death, God reconciled the world to himself. The Father was glorified in the obedient sacrifice of his Son, who was offered up for the sins of the world, for our sins. On the third day after his death, the beloved Son was raised to life.

# EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY

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## MUSIC GUIDE

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Tune.....Deo Gracias LM

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 1 starts with a whole rest in both staves. Measures 2-6 contain chords and single notes in both staves.

Musical notation for measures 7-11. Measures 7-11 continue the piece with various chordal textures and melodic lines in both staves.

Musical notation for measures 12-16. Measures 12-16 conclude the piece with final chords and melodic phrases in both staves.

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Deo Gracias LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O wondrous type! O vision fair  
Of glory that the Church may share,  
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,  
Where brighter than the sun he glows!

With Moses and Elijah nigh  
The incarnate Lord holds converse high;  
And from the cloud the Holy One  
Bears record to the only Son.

With shining face and bright array  
Christ deigns to manifest today  
What glory shall be theirs above  
Who joy in God with perfect love.

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