

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 3, 2008

[] = Instructions for worship planners and worship leaders: delete from the worship folder
() = Information for the congregation: include in the worship folder and/or PowerPoint.

[Note: **Worship Alive Plus!** is designed to be useable/adaptable in planning contemporary, blended and “fresh traditional” worship.]

[Revised Common Lectionary © 2007 WorshipOutlet.com,
by Kelly Ferrari, Julie Koenemann, and Rev. Maxwell Quinn]

WORSHIP THEME: “A Mountain Top Experience”

As we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord this morning we are reminded of how powerful mountain top experiences are in our lives. Mountain top experiences often help us cope with life in the valley. They give us insight into the future and help us interpret the past. There is no doubt that Peter, James and John had such an experience on that mount of transfiguration because it gave them enormous comfort and strength for the persecutions and trials to come. They wanted to leave their families and lives below and just put up tents and stay because it was so powerful, dramatic, and inspiring. It spoke prophetically about the future and gave them insight into the past. But mountaintop experiences must end. They had to go back down into the valley. Today we go to the mountain top with Jesus that we might be prepared for ongoing life in our own valleys.

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

[Worship Planners: A Worship CD and/or the praise team can play in the background 10-15 minutes before the service.]

INVOCATION AND INTRODUCTION OF TODAY’S THEME

OPENING PRAYER: [This prayer is offered as an idea]— Lord Jesus, we thank You for being here in the midst of us today. As we offer You our worship, we pray that You will receive all the glory, all the blessing, and all the honor. And we also pray that we will be the ones to be transfigured today, Lord. In the midst of our worship, with our focus only on You, may we be transformed into Your likeness, so that when we leave here today, we will shine Your light into a dark and desperate world. Amen.

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor:

How hard it is sometimes to bring back to memory those mountaintop times in our lives, when our hearts were overflowing with gratitude and worship, and all seemed well in the world. But we must remember. We must call on those memories to sustain us when everything around us seems to be falling apart. And we must keep from the temptation to think it is all about us! If we keep our hearts and our minds focused on the Lord Jesus, recalling His goodness and mercy to us, and pulling ourselves off the throne of our lives, we will arise in victory over even the toughest of times.

(A time of personal reflection and confession)

People:

Father, I confess that I am a sinner in word and deed. Have mercy on me. Forgive me for the sins of self-pity and also of self-promotion. You are a pure, powerful and holy God, and the only response I can have before You is to fall on my face and repent. It is not about me, Lord – it is all about You! Keep me from self-centered motives. To serve You and glorify You, Lord, is the reason I was created. Help me to surrender my life to You – and to always remember how good You have been to me! Fill me with Your Holy Spirit until nothing can ever be the same again. Amen.

Pastor:

In Jesus' name and by His blood your sins are forgiven. Bring your sacrifice of praise to God, with thanksgiving. Let His peace dwell in your hearts. Amen.

RESPONSE

The Power of Your Love

[BOB 214; ATBS 2:35; GB 157; MSPW 26; SD 3:2]

Geoff Bullock

Lord I come to You Let my heart be changed renewed
Flowing from the grace That I found in You
And Lord I've come to know The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away By the pow'r of Your love

Chorus

**Hold me close Let Your love surround me
Bring me near Draw me to Your side
And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You Your Spirit leads me on
In the pow'r of Your love**

Lord unveil my eyes Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love As You live in me
Lord renew my mind As Your will unfolds in my life
In living ev'ry day By the pow'r of Your love

CCLI Song No. 917491 © 1992 Word Music, LLC/Maranatha! Music (Admin. by Word Music Group, Inc.)/(Admin. by The Copyright Company) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

[Traditional Option]:

O Wondrous Type, O Vision Fair! [CW 96 (Deo Gracias); ELW 316; H82 136 (Plainsong Chant); H82 137 (Wareham); LSB 413; LBW 80 (Deo Gracias); LW 87 (Deo Gracias); PH 75 (Deo Gracias); UMH 258 (Wareham)]

TIME OF GREETING

TIME OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

[choose 2 or 3 of the songs listed below or from elsewhere in this service]

Everything

[www.musicnotes.com; www.worshiptogether.com]

Tim Hughes

Chorus

**Be my ev'rything Be my ev'rything
Be my ev'rything Be my ev'rything**

God in my living There in my breathing
God in my waking God in my sleeping
God in my resting There in my working
God in my thinking God in my speaking

God in my hoping There in my dreaming
God in my watching God in my waiting
God in my laughing There in my weeping
God in my hurting God in my healing

Ending 1

Christ in me Christ in me
Christ in me the Hope of Glory You are ev'rything
Christ in me Christ in me
Christ in me the Hope of Glory Be my ev'rything

Ending 2

You are ev'rything You are ev'rything
You are ev'rything You are ev'rything
You are ev'rything Jesus ev'rything
Jesus ev'rything Jesus ev'rything
Jesus ev'rything

CCLI Song No. 4685258 © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

Awesome God

[ATBS 1:15; GB 92; HMS 4:277; HMS 11:893; SPW 11]

Rich Mullins

Chorus

**Our God is an awesome God He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom pow'r and love Our God is an awesome God**

When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just puttin' on the ritz
Our God is an awesome God There is thunder in His footsteps
And lightning in His fists Our God is an awesome God
And the Lord wasn't jokin' When He kicked 'em out of Eden
It wasn't for no reason That He shed His blood
His return is very close And so you'd better be believin'
That our God is an awesome God

When the sky was starless In the void of the night
Our God is an awesome God He spoke into the darkness
And created the light Our God is an awesome God
Judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom

Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross
I hope that we have not Too quickly forgotten
That our God is an awesome God

CCLI Song No. 41099 © 1988 BMG Songs, Inc. (Admin. by BMG Music Publishing) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

He Is Exalted

[ATBS 1:113; GB 113; HMS 1:26; SPW 66]

Twila Paris

Chorus

**He is the Lord Forever His truth shall reign
Heaven and earth Rejoice in His holy name
He is exalted The King is exalted on high**

He is exalted The King is exalted on high
I will praise Him He is exalted forever exalted And I will praise His name

Ending

He is exalted He is exalted

(REPEAT 3X)

CCLI Song No. 17827 © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music (a div. of EMI Christian Music Publishing)/(Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

[Traditional Options]:

Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies [ELW 553; (Lux Prima) HFG 293; LSB 873; (Christ Whose Glory-Ratisbon) H82 6-7; LBW 265; LW 480; PH 463; WC 562; PH 463; UMC 173]

He is Exalted [CH 36; FWS 2070]

[Optional: Children's Message and/or Dismissal to Children's Church]

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

[It is suggested that the introductions be read out loud as well as the Scripture itself]

FIRST READING Exodus 24:8-18 (NIV)

As Moses ascends onto the Mountain of God with the elders of Israel, they certainly have a mountaintop experience! The mountain is covered with the glory of the Lord, and they have come to a place that is described much as heaven is described in the book of Revelation.

⁸Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." ⁹Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. ¹¹But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. ¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to

me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." ¹³Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them." ¹⁵When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

SECOND LESSON 2 Peter 1:16-21 (NIV)

In these passages Peter is teaching us that Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain, which he personally witnessed, was prophetic of a coming time. Perhaps Peter was so eager to put up little tents because he thought this event surely must be the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles! But we know that Jesus' transfiguration was indeed prophetic of His second coming, which will surely be the complete fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles as He comes to dwell with men on the earth in His millennial kingdom! And so we wait for His coming again in glory...

¹⁶We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. ¹⁹And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9 (NIV)

After taking part in this glorious vision, with Jesus glowing in His Holy Majesty, and with miraculous appearances of both Moses and Elijah, Peter, James and John have to go back down the mountain. They have heard God's voice, they have seen His risen prophets, and they have seen the glory of their Messiah. Now what? Jesus instructs them to tell no one of the vision. And so this spectacular event must remain in their hearts to keep them strong in times of trial to come.

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. ⁴Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." ⁸When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

MESSAGE "A Mountaintop Experience"

[NOTE: See "Sermon Starters & Seasonings" provided at the end of this service]

+ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD +

[NOTE: Optional location for Confession/Absolution, using materials found earlier in this service]

RESPONSE

Holy Ground

[ATBS 1:129; CH 138; C&W 65; GB 16; HMS 1:30; HMS 9:741; SPW 86; W&P 59]

Geron Davis

Chorus

**We are standing on holy ground
And I know that there
Are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now
We are standing in His presence
On holy ground**

CCLI Song No. 21198 © 1983 Meadowgreen Music Company/Songchannel Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)\(Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

Let God Arise

www.worshiptogether.com

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

(PRE-CHORUS)

Our God is a God who saves Our God is a God who saves

Chorus 1

**Let God arise Let God arise
Our God reigns now and forever He reigns now and forever**

Hear the holy roar of God resound Watch the waters part before us now
Come and see what He has done for us Tell the world of His great love

His enemies will run for sure The church will stand she will endure
He holds the keys of life our Lord Death has no sting no final word

Chorus 2

**God arise Let God arise
Our God reigns now and forever He reigns now and forever**

CCLI Song No. 4822413 © 2006 worshiptogether.com songs | sixsteps Music | Alletrop Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) | (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) | (Admin. by Music Services) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

Beautiful One

[ATBS 2:12; WT 6:5; SSA]

Tim Hughes

Chorus
Beautiful One I love Beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One my soul must sing

Wonderful so wonderful is Your unfailing love Your cross has spoken mercy over me
No eye has seen no ear has heard No heart could fully know
How glorious how beautiful You are

Powerful so powerful Your glory fills the skies Your mighty works displayed for all to see
The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing How marvellous how wonderful You are

You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew You captured my heart with this love
'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You

Ending
My soul my soul must sing My soul my soul must sing
My soul my soul must sing Beautiful One

CCLI Song No. 3915912 © 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) All rights Reserved. CCLI License
No. 1139778

[Traditional Options:]

Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here [LSB 414; LW 89; LBW 89]

Beautiful Savior [CH 87; CW 369; ELW 838; GB 107; H82 383; LSB 537; LW 507; LBW 518;
PH 306; UMH 189; WC 115]

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

[NOTE: The following are contemporary song options for speaking the Apostle's Creed: *Because We Believe* ATBS 119; SPW 6; INTEGRITY 12 **OR** *This Is What I Believe* GB 249 **OR** The Apostles Creed Integrity 8 **OR** you may choose to do the thematic contemporary creed written specially for this service **OR** use the historic Apostles' Creed]

Arise, shine for your light has come! The Lord God is the Light of the world.
I believe that He was in the beginning, creating the universe,
Flinging the stars into space and placing the planets in their orbit.
I believe that He created all life, and that He is sovereign over all creation.

Arise, shine, for your light has come! Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.
Co-Creator with the Father, He came in human form to die on the cross,
That all who believe in Him might not perish, but live forever.
I believe that He is coming again as King, to establish His throne on earth,
And reign forever and ever.

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The Holy Spirit is the Light of the world.
He is the fire that consumes, chastens, exhorts, edifies and comforts me.
He is the light of God, and the mind of Christ.

Arise, shine, for your light has come!
Come and consume me today, that I might leave here shining with Your glory!
Amen.

[OR...]

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

OFFERINGS

[Choose a song from elsewhere in the service that is as yet unused].

PRAYERS¹

[Prayer Topic Starters]

- Thanks for:
 - Mountaintop experiences that take us into Your Presence, and remain with us to strengthen us in the valley.
 - The gift of prophecy through your Holy Spirit, helping us to get a glimpse of those things You want to prepare us for in the future.
 - Showing us that it takes both Moses and Elijah – the Law and the Prophets – for the fullness of God to be revealed and fulfilled!
- Please give us:
 - Encouragement to remember those times on the mountain when we find ourselves low in the valley.
 - Revelation and understanding of Your Word, so that we can follow it and teach it to others.
 - Joy in those mountaintop times, which we keep with us and hold on to.
- Cause us by Your Holy Spirit and Your Word to:
 - Praise You in all things, even when we are in the tough times.
 - Reject self-pity and remember all the goodness and mercy You have bestowed upon us and our families.
- Local congregational and individual concerns

¹ Formal language and “perfectly read” prayers are not recommended for contemporary worship. People appreciate the touching sincerity of informal prayer. “Heartfelt” prayer also teaches/models simple prayer language that anyone can use at home, in the car, the office, etc. These “**Prayer Topics Starters**” are offered to help facilitate spontaneity.

The Lord's Prayer

[Consider having the congregation sing the Lord's Prayer using the Malotte version using one of the lower keys such as B flat.]

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

[A communion option to insert for churches celebrating the Lord's Supper on this day]

+ The Lord's Supper +

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WE PREPARE

Pastor:

It is truly right to glorify You, Father, and to give You thanks. For You alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. We acclaim You, Holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal Your wisdom and love. You formed us in Your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to You, our Creator, we might rule and serve Your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from You, You did not abandon us to the power of death. In Your mercy, You came to help, so that in seeking You we might find You. Again and again You called us into covenant with You, and through the prophets You taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, You loved the world so much that in the fullness of time You sent Your only Son to be our Savior. To fulfill Your purpose He gave Himself up to death, and rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. Recalling Christ's death and His descent among the dead, proclaiming His resurrection and ascension to Your right hand, and awaiting His coming in glory, we share this bread and this cup as one body, united in You. [For on the night...]

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

(Worshippers may turn to one another and share the peace which comes from the Lord with words such as, "God's peace to you.")

DISTRIBUTION SONGS – [choose as many you need]

Blessing Honor And Glory

[ATBS 2:115; GB 13; MSPW 21]

David Reidy | Geoff Bullock

Chorus

**Death could not hold Him down For He is risen
Seated upon the throne He is the Lamb of God**

Blessing honour glory to the Lamb Holy righteous worthy is the Lamb
Blessing honour glory to the Lamb Holy righteous worthy is the Lamb
CCLI Song No. 1001179 © 1990 Word Music, LLC | Maranatha! Music (Admin. by Word Music Group, Inc.) | (Admin. by Music Services) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

Consuming Fire

[ATBS 2:134; WT 6:13; WT 7:9]

Tim Hughes

Chorus

**Consuming Fire fan into flame A passion for Your name
Spirit of God fall in this place Lord have Your way
Lord have Your way with us**

There must be more than this O breath of God come breathe within
There must be more than this Spirit of God we wait for You
Fill us anew we pray Fill us anew we pray

Come like a rushing wind Clothe us with power from on high
Now set the captives free Leave us abandoned to Your praise
Lord let Your glory fall Lord let Your glory fall

CCLI Song No. 3818569 © 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

[Traditional Options]:

Be Thou My Vision [CH 562; ELW 793; HFG 468; HWC 382; MGB 172; NCH 451; PH 339; WC 532; UMH 451]

Jesus on the Mountain Peak [(Seward) HS 818; LSB 415; (Mowsley) PH 74; (St. Albinus) WOV 653]

COMMON DISMISSAL

BENEDICTION

Pastor: O God, continue to transform us into the likeness of Your Son. Help us this week to carry the mountaintop experience of worship on holy ground into the grind of our daily lives. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we too might “glow” with Your love and Your joy! Amen.

People: You are Everlasting God, who was, who is, and who is to come! Amen!

CLOSING SONG

Everlasting God

[www.praisecharts.com; www.wordmusicnow.com; www.worshiptogether.com]

Brenton Brown | Ken Riley

(PRE-CHORUS)

Our God You reign forever Our hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus

**You are the everlasting God The everlasting God
You do not faint You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles**

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

CCLI Song No. 4556538 © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

-or-

Great is the Lord

[TSOB 66; SPW 30; HMS 4:286; GB 29; CH 140; W&P 53]

Deborah D. Smith / Michael W. Smith

Chorus

**Great is the Lord He is holy and just
By His power we trust in His love
Great is the Lord He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love**

Great is the Lord And worthy of glory

Great is the Lord And worthy of praise

Great is the Lord Now lift up your voice Now lift up your voice

Great is the Lord

Great are You Lord And worthy of glory

Great are You Lord And worthy of praise

Great are You Lord I lift up my voice I lift up my voice

Great are You Lord

Ending

Great are You Lord Great are You Lord

Great are You Lord Great are You Lord

CCLI Song No. 1149 © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 1139778

[Traditional Options]:

Great is the Lord [CH 140; FWS 2022; MGB 29; SPW 30; WC 44]

O Bless the Lord My Soul [H82 411; LSB 814; (Michael) LBW 538; LW 457]

Musical Notes

Music charts downloadable through:

www.Praisecharts.com

www.Wordmusicnow.com

www.Worshipleaderassistant.com

www.worshiptogether.com

www.musicnotes.com

www.musicnotes.com

www.songselect.com

Chord charts free downloads available at:

www.Iwillworship.com

www.pwarchive.com

Mp3 downloads available through:

www.Songtouch.com

www.Worshiptogether.com

www.Walmart.com

www.Itunes.com

New Songs to consider:

Our God Saves (Recorded on *Paul Baloche's Our God Saves*)

Brenton Brown & Paul Baloche © 2007 Thankyou Music (EMI Publishing), Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Music Leadworship Songs (Adm. By Integrity Music, Inc.)

Lead lines on www.songselect.com and www.praisecharts.com, and church charts on www.Iwillworship.com and www.pwarchive.com.

Keep your eyes on Songselect for this amazing new song:

You Are My God

Adam Cunningham © 2007 High Hurdle Music (Adm. By Fun Attic Music) Over Fork

SSS – SERMON STARTERS & SEASONINGS

The following ideas are merely intended to help get your own creative juices flowing and prepare your heart for God's Spirit to inspire and speak through you.

“A Mountaintop Experience” *Matthew 17:1-9*

As we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord this morning we are reminded of how powerful mountain top experiences are in our lives. Mountain experiences often help us cope with life in the valley. They give us insight into the future and help us interpret the past. There is no doubt that Peter, James and John, had such an experience on that mount of transfiguration because it gave them enormous comfort and strength for the persecutions and trials to come. They wanted to leave their wives and lives below and just put up tents and stay it was so powerful, dramatic and inspiring. It spoke prophetically about the future and gave insight into the past. But mountaintop experiences must end. They had to go back down into the valley. Today we go to the mountaintop with Jesus that we might be prepared for ongoing life in our own valleys!

Theological Reflections and Practical Applications

The Context:

Matthew 16:28: This verse anticipates the Transfiguration in ch. 17. Several reasons point to this conclusion: (1) It is Peter's interpretation in 2 Pet. 1:16–18; (2) the three synoptic Gospels (John omits the account of the Transfiguration) all place the Transfiguration immediately after this prediction; and (3) not all of the apostles saw the Transfiguration (19:27–30). In the Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John saw a preview of the kingdom.

The Transfiguration:

17:1 The **high mountain** was probably a spur of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,400 feet.

17:2–4 Moses and Elijah: Their presence indicated that the OT Scriptures had been looking forward to the Messiah and His kingdom.

17:5–8 This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased were the identical words spoken at Jesus' baptism in Matt. 3:17 (Ps. 2:7; Is. 42:1). **Hear Him** seems to refer to Deut. 18:15.

17:9 Tell the vision to no one: The command for silence was due to the fact that the masses of Israel had an incorrect concept of the Messiah (Matt. 8:4; 12:16). They expected a conquering king not a Suffering Servant.²

Additional Transfiguration References:

Exodus 34:29-35: Moses comes down from the mountain, his face radiant from being in the presence of the Lord.

Possible Sermon Outline: Look. Listen. Leave.

I. Look. The disciples lifted their eyes and saw Jesus only. He was their vision. Your vision determines your actions.

²Radmacher, Earl D. ; Allen, Ronald Barclay ; House, H. Wayne: *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary*. Nashville : T. Nelson Publishers, 1999, S. Mt 17:1-9

II. Listen. The voice of the Father told the disciples to listen to His Son. We don't always hear. There is so much chatter in our lives that the still, quiet voice becomes lost in the cacophony of living. We are encouraged to listen to Jesus because He tells the Truth.

III. Leave. The disciples wanted to mark the occasion by the building of shrines. Shrines are important. They mark the time of and place of a significant event. But we are not meant to worship shrines, or to remain enshrined in our discipleship. Our following of Jesus is worked out in the valley, where things are not always clean and easy. We live from mountaintop to mountaintop.:

Quotations

Change of Face:

God is in the business of changing the face of the world.

Let me be very clear. This change is his job, not ours. Our goal is not to make our faces radiant. Not even Jesus did that. Matthew says, "Jesus' appearance was changed" not "Jesus changed his appearance." Moses didn't even know his face was shining (Exod. 34:29). Our goal is not to conjure up some fake, frozen expression. Our goal is simply to stand before God with a prepared and willing heart and then let God do his work.

And he does. He wipes away the tears. He mops away the perspiration. He softens our furrowed brows. He touches our cheeks. He changes our faces as we worship.

Max Lucado, Just Like Jesus

Seeing the Light:

There are snowstorms. There are hailstorms. There are rainstorms. And there are doubtstorms.

Every so often a doubtstorm rolls into my life, bringing with it a flurry of questions and gale-force winds of fear. And, soon after it comes, a light shines through it.

Max Lucado, In the Eye of the Storm

Light:

It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us most.

Marianne Williamson

Illustrations

Star Witness:

A man was arraigned for murder in Los Angeles about 60 years ago. It was a difficult case with a lot of circumstantial evidence.

The man's defense lawyer, however, thought of an ingenious ploy. In his summing up speech, he said: "Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, you must find my client not guilty of murder - if there is the slightest doubt in your minds that he is not the murderer.

And now I have one final witness. "The true murderer is about to walk through the door."

All eyes swung towards the door but no one came in.

The lawyer continued: "You see, Ladies and Gentlemen, there is doubt in your minds, otherwise you would not have looked towards the door."

The jury retired to deliberate and came back five hours later with a "Guilty" verdict.

The lawyer was beside himself and before the judge could pass sentence he sprang up and said "But I proved that you had a doubt about my client's guilt. How can you possibly find him guilty?"

An old wizened man in the jury stood up and said: "As everyone looked towards the door, I watched your client. His eyes did not turn towards the door.

He did not look towards the door because he knew no one was coming through. Because he himself was the guilty one.

In contrast to that Los Angeles Courtroom, where the star witness did not appear, this morning's Gospel

reading is all about a star witness who did appear.

And He came to answer the question that was on everyone's lips: "Who is Jesus?"

Who was this star witness? He was none other than God the Father, who answered the question by revealing Jesus' glory to the disciples Peter, James and John and by saying: "This is my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with him."

Martin Dale, Sermoncentral.com

Flawless

The way you test an expensive crystal is by putting heat to it. The flame will find any flaw or imperfection, and will crack that crystal.

If there had been one blemish in Christ the glory this day would have ruptured the man Jesus and all He taught and preached would have shattered into a million pieces. And if any fault had been found in Him, He could not have died for our sins, he would have had to die for His own sins, just like we deserve!

Jerry Shirley, Sermoncentral.com

Sontan

Moses came down from the mountain with a beaming face. His face shone so radiantly the Israelites asked him to put a veil over his face. He had been in the presence of the Almighty God, and it showed. Every Sunday, we enter into the presence of the Almighty. We celebrate not only creation, but redemption. There is glory all over the place. Those who leave the worship service might be expected to exhibit some evidence they have been in the presence of glory – some trace of Son tan. However, many come to worship wearing their spf 45's – lathered with so much Son screen they leave the worship place looking no different than when they entered.

Maxwell Quinn

On the Lighter Side ☺

Seeing the Glory:

An elderly couple passed away and found themselves at the pearly gates. Peter was there to welcome them. First he showed them their mansion. The man overwhelmed by the sheer luxury of it all asked, "How much does this place cost per night?" Peter replied, "Sir, this is Heaven, it doesn't cost anything." Then Peter took them to the dining room where table upon table was piled high with the most delicious foods you could imagine. Again overwhelmed by the glory of it all the man asked, "How much for the meals?" Peter said, "You forget, this is Heaven, it's free." Peter then took them out back where they saw a fantastically beautiful golf course. As the man stood there open-mouthed Peter said, "Now before you ask, there are no greens fees, this is Heaven, everything is free." The man looked at his wife and said, "You and your confounded bran muffins, I could have been here 10 years ago!"

Jim Kilson, Sermoncentral.com

Shining Light:

Jesus said to his disciples, "[L]et your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

This is a concept that is sometimes a challenge for us. In fact I recently read about a little girl who came home from Sunday School right after studying this verse. She asked her mother, when she repeated the verse, what it meant. Her mom said, "Well, it means that when you are good and kind and thoughtful and obedient, you are letting Christ's light shine in your life before all who know you." The very next Sunday in Sunday School, the little girl got in a bit of a fracas with another student and created somewhat of an uproar--to such an extent that the Sunday School teacher had to go and find her mother to get her settled down a bit in the class. Her mother was concerned when she got to the classroom and said, "Sweetie,

don't you remember about letting your light shine for the Lord before [others]?" The girl blurted out, "Mom, I have blowed myself out!"

W. Frank Harrington, "The Love That Brought Him," Preaching Today, Tape No. 51, cited on PreachingToday.com.

Listen to Him:

Two men were talking over coffee one day. One said: "I'm concerned about my wife. She talks to herself a lot these days." The other said: "Mine does too, but she doesn't know it. She thinks I'm listening."

Randy Croft, Sermoncentral.com

Video Resources

Transfiguration [Could use as an introduction to the Gospel lesson]

This video places the Transfiguration event within the context of Jesus' ministry. The focus of the video is the physical location of the Transfiguration, as well as its meaning. It's available as a download from www.sermonspice.com. Simply type in the name of the video in the search bar. The video costs \$15 and runs 4:30. The video, while somewhat lengthy, can be used as an introduction to the Gospel.

Listening [Could be used within the Message]

The video is called Basic Communication, and illustrates, in a comedic way, selective hearing – how we hear what we want to hear. There is a reference to a massage in the bedroom – so screen the video at www.sermonspice.com in order to determine its appropriateness for your congregation. Simply type the name of the video in the search bar. The video costs \$15 and runs 3:08. If listening to Jesus is part of your message, insert the video at the appropriate point.

NuParable

Listen!

As you are speaking, have some music playing in the background. Have someone slowly turn up the volume, while you remain speaking in a conversational tone. Soon, no one will be able to hear what you are saying. Continue speaking and have the volume lowered. During the time you could not be heard, change your message to John 3:16, so that is what people hear when they are again able.

Make whatever point fits your message – that we don't always hear the message of the Gospel over the drone of the world, or we carry the message of the Gospel to a world that is tuned in to other things, or that the still, small voice of God is still speaking to us in the midst of the din and we will hear his voice whenever we focus on Him/His Word rather than the opinion and priorities of the world.

Maxwell Quinn