

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Isaiah 9:2, 6, 1, 2, 5

The people that have walked in darkness have seen | a great light.*
 Unto us a | Child is born.
 His name shall be called wonderful counselor, the | mighty God,*
 the everlasting Father, the | Prince of Peace.
 The Lord reigns, He is clothed with | majesty;*
 The Lord is clothed, He has girded Him- | self with strength.
 Surely the world is es-/ tablished,*
 so that it can- | not be moved.
 Your throne is established | from of old;*
 You are from ever- | lasting.
 Your testimonies are | very sure;*
 Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, for- | ever.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Galatians 4:5

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

7

READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord God, gracious Father, who in the fullness of time sent Your Son to become man, assume our flesh, and become our Brother, we implore You to keep us in true knowledge of our Redeemer, by whose birth we are delivered from sin, death, Satan, and hell, that with all the holy angels we may rejoice at His Nativity and behold Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
All Praise to Thee, Eternal God

TLH 80, LSB 382
Martin Luther



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. All praise to Thee, eternal God,
 Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
 Dost take a manger for Thy throne,
 While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.
 Hallelujah!</p> <p>3. A little Child, Thou art our Guest
 That weary ones in Thee may rest;
 Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth
 That we may rise to heaven from earth.
 Hallelujah!</p> | <p>4. Thou comest in the darksome night
 To make us children of the light,
 To make us in the realms divine,
 Like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.
 Hallelujah!</p> <p>5. All this for us Thy love hath done;
 By This to Thee our love is won;
 For this our joyful songs we raise
 And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.
 Hallelujah!</p> |
|---|---|



“The Birth of the Christ-Child”

1

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2

SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

3

PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

4

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have kept me this night from all
 harm and danger; and I pray that
 You would keep me this day also
 from sin and every evil, that all my
 doings and life may please You.
 For into Your hands I commend
 myself, my body and soul, and all
 things. Let Your holy angel be with
 me, that the evil foe may have no
 power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have graciously kept me this day;
 and I pray that You would forgive
 me all my sins where I have done
 wrong, and graciously keep me this
 night. For into Your hands, I
 commend myself, my body and
 soul, and all things. Let Your holy
 angel be with me, that the evil foe
 may have no power over me. Amen.

THEME OF THE WEEK: **The Birth of the Christ-Child**

The day has finally come! While the world tries to sleep off the excesses of its materialistic binge, Christians gather to celebrate the feast of Christmas. For twelve whole days our hearts are filled with the glad tidings of Jesus' birth from the Sacred Scriptures. We don't have to guess what Christmas is all about. The Holy Spirit tells us plainly. The Word is made flesh. God is a man in the person of Christ. It is my honor and privilege to share this inspired Christmas message, filled with comfort and hope, with you this week. The Lord grant us minds to understand, hearts to believe, and tongues to confess all we learn. Merry Christmas!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2:1-14 "To Whom do Angels Appear?"**

Augustus' assumption of power brought an end to endless conflict and ushered in an era of international peace. Under the mantle of his imperial power, all nations, tribes, and languages hailed him as a god. Because the world's attention was locked on Caesar, it would have missed the birth of an even greater King had it not been for the angel's sermon. Marvel at this: the angel didn't speak his heavenly rhetoric before the Roman senate. He didn't appear to Caesar's legions. He found shepherds, the lowest and humblest of men, to hear and bear witness to God's birth. In the same way God elects and saves us by grace apart from what the world counts as worthy. Hear and believe that He is well pleased with you. *Glory to God in the highest! Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 23:34-39 "Accepting or Rejecting Christ?"**

We're tempted to boast that we wouldn't have made the same mistakes that men have made in the past. 'If Christ were born in my day,' we think, 'I would have followed Him no matter what. I would not have deserted Him or cried out for His crucifixion.' These words are born of sinful pride, not the Spirit. Instead of receiving Jesus as Lord or St. Stephan as a prophet, stubborn and prideful human flesh rejected them. Do not boast that you've accepted Christ, dear saints. Boast instead that Christ has accepted you to hear and believe His Gospel. By His grace and mercy, your hard heart is overcome so you can be counted as God's child by humble faith that receives what God gives. *Thank You for accepting me according to Your grace. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **John 21:19-24 "What is It to You?"**

What did the Christians think when St. John was approaching his 95th or 96th year on earth? 'Will John really remain until Jesus comes again?' No doubt John chuckled and laughed at their wonderment over his age since he had been spared the more violent deaths of his apostolic brothers. What could his age mean? That doesn't concern us. To some God gives the honor of working diligently without the pain of persecution. To others he gives the glory of martyrdom. It's not for us to seek one or the other, but rather to commend ourselves into God's tender keeping. The greater will of God is that we believe what our fathers in the faith have confessed and preached. We leave all else to God's good and gracious will. *Your will be done, O Lord. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 2:13-18 "Why This Bitter Hatred?"**

Our natures have grown so weak under relentless satanic attack that Herod's hatred of the babies has become the rule, not the exception. We're always hearing why it's better for the babies to die than live, why it's better that human life be ended than preserved. Some so-called churches have thrown in the towel and have stopped arguing for the babies' lives to keep from embarrassing themselves in polite society, I suppose. God keep us from such inhumanity. Jesus has come to save our minds, affections, and desires from death. By the Spirit be renewed in your minds to see the babes as Christ sees them, as loved by the Father and redeemed by His divine blood. *Lord Jesus, keep all the dear children in Thy tender care. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 1:1-14 "In the Beginning"**

Just as Genesis marks the beginning of our terrestrial existence, so St. John's Gospel marks the beginning of our heavenly existence. Our flesh had been sold under the slavery of sin to the devil's dominion of death. But now, "the true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." This wasn't a ray of heavenly energy from the transcendent realm beamed directly into our hearts. "The Word became flesh!" The Son of God was born as you were born. The Creator has assumed a created nature to redeem creation from its captivity to the darkness of death. "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." *O Light from Heaven, may Your humanity and divinity united in Your person assure me of my perfect redemption. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Hebrews 1:1-12 "Imprint of Nature"**

The old devilish attacks of Arianism and Gnosticism are never far from us. Folks who read their Bibles in a "new way" find twisted satisfaction in claiming that the Scriptures never definitively say that Jesus is divine as the Father is divine. They'll come up with new ways of speaking of Jesus' humanity too, saying that He only appeared to be born, to suffer, die, and be raised on the third day. Let the Holy Spirit cast these worn-out heresies far from your mind. See what great pains He takes to assure you of the exactness of the imprint of divine nature upon the Son who has become our Savior. No angel of heaven is as exulted as He. And yet, find the greatest comfort in His humility to save you. *Keep my mind and heart free from all heresy. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 132 "For David's Sake"**

As the Israelites ascended and passed through Jerusalem's gates to worship, they would chant psalms such as this. Their kings were wicked. Their priests were corrupt. Their leaders promoted the idolatry of the nations with more vigor than they promoted the worship of the true God. When they were tempted with despair, the Spirit made them remember the promise the Lord spoke to David, that His Seed would sit on the divine throne forever (vs. 12). Therefore the people sang, "For the sake of Your servant David, do not turn away the face of Your Christ." On Christmas, the face of Christ has come, and today the crown of His righteousness, the power of His Word and sacrament, shines over His people making them holy. *Let us go to His dwelling place. Amen.*

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