

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 66:4, 92:1; 66:1-5, 20

All the earth shall | worship You,*
 and sing praises to | You, O God.
 They shall sing praises | to Your name;*
 to Your name, | O Most High.
 Make a joyful shout to God, | all the earth!*
 Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise | glorious.
 Say to God, "How awesome | are Your works!*"
 All the earth shall sing prais- | es to You."
 Come and see the | works of God;*
 He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.
 Blessed be God, who has not turned a- | way my prayer,*
 nor His mercy | from me!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 16:8-9

"I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, Governor of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of Your people and grant us Your peace in our time; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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 Of the Father's Love Begotten

TLH 98, LSB 384
 Aurelius C. Prudentius



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Of the Father's love begotten
 Ere the worlds began to be,
 He is Alpha and Omega,
 He the Source, the Ending He,
 Of the things that are, that have been,
 And that future years shall see
 Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
 Angel hosts, His praises sing;
 Powers, dominions, bow before Him
 And extol our God and King,
 Let no tongue on earth be silent,
 Every voice in concert ring
 Evermore and evermore.</p> | <p>4. This is He whom Heaven-taught singers
 Sang of old with one accord;
 Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
 Promised in their faithful word.
 Now He shines, the Long-expected;
 Let creation praise its Lord
 Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
 And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
 And unending praises be,
 Honor, glory, and dominion,
 And eternal victory
 Evermore and evermore.</p> |
|--|---|



"God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Create"

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: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Create

The Lord comes into the flesh and manifests His glory in a very peculiar way. It's not, chiefly, through the raising of the dead or the healing of the sick. It begins with the changing of water into wine, and concludes with His own suffering, shedding of blood, dying, and rising. The Lord shows His glory in His service to us by redeeming us from our sins. We, therefore, being recipients of that mercy and glory, are given to serve one another with that same love which has been poured into our hearts, until, at last, He returns to bring us into His eternal glory.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 2:1-11 – The First Miracle and the First Vocation

We would expect that the first miracle of our Lord after His incarnation would be something extravagant, like raising the dead or making the lame to walk. But, instead, He turns water into wine for a wedding party. It seems like a frivolous miracle, until we look back and see that the first vocation the Lord gave to humanity after creation was marriage. And so, now, for His first miracle after His putting on flesh, He blesses, again, the vocation of marriage and brings great joy and delight to this couple and all their guests with the best wine. *Lord Jesus, bless all marriages with joy and delight, and where there is strife, bring forgiveness and peace. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 14 – The Lord Restores the Fortunes of the Corrupt

“They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who dies good.” David is here describing all of us. We are all, by nature, corrupt. We are all, by nature, prone to doing abominable deeds. We are all, by nature, evil. And because of this, the Lord has every right to abandon us. He is completely justified should He condemn us forever to eternal death. And yet, out of Zion, He sends salvation to us who are His enemies. He doesn't cast us into hell or destroy us. Instead, He comes Himself in order to bear our sin, personally, as He takes it into His own flesh and sheds His blood for it, thus, restoring our fortunes, and making us, again, to be His beloved children. *Lord, thank You for giving me what I do not deserve, eternal salvation. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:6-16 a – How then Shall We Live?

One of our great questions in this life is what our lives as Christians ought to look like. Here, we get a marvelous picture. There is the recognition, first, that a variety of gifts have been given to the church, and that they all don't look alike. Second, there is the general admonition to holy living, but at its core, is the admonition to look outward, toward the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. That's what sits behind love, hospitality, patience, etc. The Lord gives us our fellow Christians as gifts and we are to treat them as such, considering their needs above ours and serving them as we would ourselves like to be served. *Lord, keep me from living only for myself, and help me to serve and honor those You have given to me. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 18:15-19 – Listen to Jesus

God promises that a greater prophet will arise. This prophet is Jesus. And God gives the command that we listen to Him. We have the same command come to us at our Lord's transfiguration, where the Father instructs Peter, James, and John to place their focus on Jesus, not Elijah or Moses. We too, are given to have our attention, and especially our ears, focused on what Jesus is saying. And then to realize this even greater and wonderful reality: when the Lord speaks anywhere in the Scriptures, it is Jesus to whom we are listening. This is the great blessing of the Lord's Word, that in it He, Jesus, speaks, and we listen. *Lord, grant that my ears would always be attuned to Your Word which gives me life. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:1-10 – Jesus Eats with Sinners

It was scandalous for a man to eat in the home of someone like Zacchaeus. But Jesus is not worried about outward appearances. He knows why He's there. He's come specifically for people like Zacchaeus. He's come to seek and to save the Lost. And so while it might be scandalous that He goes in to eat with such a sinner, it's not even close to the scandal that would come, as Jesus fulfils His purpose in dying for the sins of all humanity. Nor is it as scandalous as the Lord, not coming to dine with us, but inviting us to His own table, week after week, to dine with Him, that we may taste and see that the Lord is good. He's truly come to save sinners, even you. *Lord, I thank You that You have so graciously come to save me from my sin. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:21-33 – A Picture of Christ and the Church

As we saw on Sunday, the Lord is always concerned about marriage, thus His first miracle is the blessing of a marriage with good wine. Here, we get a glimpse behind the curtain, to see part of the reason why marriage is so precious to the Lord. We see that marriage is, in fact, a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride, the Church. So any time we see a husband and wife in the world, we are to be reminded, not only of the great love between them, nor only of the Lord's great love for them, but especially, of the Lord's great love for His own bride, the One, Holy, Christian, and Apostolic Church, for whom He has shed His blood. *Lord, thank You for making me a part of Your bride, the Church, and redeeming me with Your blood. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 16 – The Lord Preserves You

“I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.” This is our great confidence, joy, assurance, and comfort. In the midst of anything and everything the world can throw at us, in the midst of the devil constantly assaulting us, in the midst of our sinful flesh seeking to flee from the Lord, we have this promise: the Lord does not abandon us. The Lord keeps us in safety, night and day, especially from our great foes of sin and devil and everlasting death. Therefore, I cannot be shaken, I cannot be destroyed, I cannot be separated from the Love of God in Christ. *Lord, You are always my joy and security. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email office@hopeaurora.org. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Rev. Sean Kilgo. He serves at Redeemer Lutheran Church, in Lawrence, KS and as campus Pastor for the University of Kansas. He and his wonderful wife have been married since 2006 and have two beautiful children, Isaiah and Phoebe.