

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 *John 1:14*

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

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



- | | |
|---|--|
| 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! | 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! |
| 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! | 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! |



“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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of December 23-29, 2018

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

This week our thoughts concentrate on three themes: First, repentance and our great need to receive our Savior from sin. Second, the mystery of the Word become flesh, born of the virgin. And third, the consequences of confessing the previous two themes before the world of darkness and unbelief. These all play out during this week of Christmas.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 1:19-28 A Voice Crying in the Wilderness

In many ways, John is really the prophet of our time. We are a distracted and proud people who believe that God winks at our sins and that we can delay repentance because God, for His part, understands that deep down we're good people and that we really didn't mean it. To this John would rouse us from our sleepy indifference. He is a voice crying in our wilderness to make straight the path of the Lord. How? Leave your sins behind. Believe Him to whom John points. For Jesus still comes for sinners – he comes even now for you. *Stir up my heart O Lord, that I would see my sins and my need for Your grace and mercy. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-14 – Christmas Eve: God with Us

When the shepherds heard the proclamation of the angels that the Christ was born in Bethlehem, they did not stay in the fields with their flocks. They did not simply stand there and mull over God's goodness in their minds. No, they were so filled with joy that they came to the place where the child Jesus lay. They worshipped Jesus where He was. So it is that Christians gather around the manger of God's word and promises. They come to God's house where God has promised to be. Filled with joy we can no longer stand to be away. Let us go! *Lord, bring me to the manger of Your holy Church that I with all Your saints may worship You in truth. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-14 – Christmas Day: The Word is made flesh

The ancient Greeks and Romans told myths of the gods taking human form and dwelling among the people, (sometimes for nefarious purposes). But they would have never said that a god would become flesh. Yet that is exactly what the true God has done. Our Lord Jesus took on and still bears our human flesh in order to save His people from their sins, to take up our cause and identify with us in every way. What no other religion has ever dreamed is the very basis of the Christian faith; God does not have you come to Him. He comes to you. *Lord Jesus, in Your flesh You destroyed my sin at the cross. Reign now in my heart by Your risen body. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 23:34-39 – St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Right on the heels of the joy of Christmas follows the blood of the martyrs. St. Stephen was the first martyr to give his life after the resurrection of Jesus. Perhaps the Church saw fit to put this feast immediately after Christmas Day in order to teach us that confessing this Jesus, born of the virgin Mary, dead, and risen again, has consequences. But just as Jesus is risen, so will He bring all those who confess His name to Himself in heaven. That means Stephen is not dead. The Lord is faithful. Jesus lives, and so does St. Stephen. *Lord Jesus, strengthen me for a good confession through my life and conversation with others. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 21:19-24 – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Today the Church gives thanks to God for St. John the apostle and evangelist. He is, as he himself bears testimony, the "disciple whom Jesus loved" (vs. 20). This does not mean that Jesus loved the others any less, but rather that the Lord's love for John was unique and only for John. It is the same with you. He loves you in ways that are proper to you. He takes away your sins and loves you as His beloved. You are not some faceless being in a mass of people trying to get God's attention. He calls you by name. You are His. *Lord Jesus, I give You thanks for St. John and for the word which You spoke through him. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:13-18 - Holy Innocents

Why would the children have to die in such a horrible way while Jesus gets to live? To us it seems most unfair. But wait, dear Christian heart. The Lord Jesus would die, but just not yet. The baby boys of Bethlehem had the honor of dying for their Lord, but their death does not procure them or God anything. Not so with Jesus. His death accounts the Innocents of Bethlehem truly innocent, blameless and pure. His death for them atones for their sins and brings them with all the saints into His glory. Not only for them, but also for you. *Lord Jesus, account me innocent in Your death and resurrection and bring me to Your glory. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 110 – Jesus, King and Priest

In this Psalm, David prophesies of the Lord Jesus, who is not only our Lord and God, but also a great High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, a mysterious priest from Genesis 14:17-20. He is a Priest for us and our cause. Jesus entered into the holy of holies once for us by the wood of His cross, and secured for us an eternal redemption in His precious blood. Now He makes us priests in our baptism that we would intercede for others and offer up our prayers and thanksgivings to Him as a pleasing sacrifice. *Lord Jesus, by Your priestly sacrifice, once for all, are we all made holy. Amen.*

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