

“God Manifested in the Infancy of Jesus”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 6:1. Revelation 19:6; Psalm 100:1-5**

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and | lifted up,*
 And the train of His robe filled the | temple.
 And I heard the voice of a great multitude, | saying,*
 “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omni- | potent reigns!
 Make a joyful shout to the Lord, | all you lands!*
 Serve the Lord with | gladness;
 Know that the Lord, | He is God;*
 it is He who has made us, and not | we ourselves;
 enter into His gates with thanks- | giving,*
 and into His | courts with praise.
 For the Lord is good; His mercy is ever- | lasting,*
 and His truth endures to all gener- | ations.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 96:3**
 “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Lord, we implore You, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You now live and reign with the Father 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 **O Jesus, King of Glory**
 TLH 130
 Martin Behm



1. O Jesus, King of Glory,
 Both David's Lord and Son!
 Thy realm endures forever,
 In heaven is fixed Thy throne.
 Help that in earth's dominions,
 Throughout from pole to pole,
 Thy reign may spread salvation
 To each benighted soul.

6. And bid Thy Word within me
 Shine as the fairest star;
 Keep sin and all false doctrine
 Forever from me far.
 Help me confess Thee truly
 And with Thy Christendom
 Here own Thee King and Savior
 And in the world to come.

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 January 5-11, 2020

THEME OF THE WEEK: God Manifested in the Infancy of Jesus

This week of Epiphany, we will consider what it means that the light of Christ has dawned. We will see how His light calls all people to Himself, including even in the Gentiles. And we will see that this Christ is more than just a light, but a light with power, for He is also a king who rules us in mercy and righteousness. May these reflections bless your devotion to the Lord, that His light may shine on us to see better what it means that He is our king.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 96 – Proclaim to the Nations

In this Psalm that begins our meditations during the week of Epiphany, we hear the Psalmist declare that we should not only praise God's holy name, but that we would instruct the nations to do the same. This is the song of all creation, that we praise our Creator. This is the theme of Epiphany. It is the revealing of the Christ-child to the nations, and ALL of creation is meant to praise Him. As our Lord Himself said when He arrived in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in Luke 19:40, if the people are silent, the earth itself will declare His glory. What a privilege it is to be able to praise our God Who has created us and redeemed us! *O Lord, grant that I may rejoice to praise You as You have called me freely in the Gospel. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12 – They Have Come to Worship Him

This is the Feast Day of the Epiphany. We rejoice today that the light of the Gospel has shone upon the Gentiles the same as it did upon the Jews. Many of us Lutherans are recipients of God's grace to include the Gentiles among His people as He promised to do from old. When the Magi arrived, how did Herod receive them? Herod was more concerned about his power than worshipping the true king and thereby lost his chance while the Magi were humble and went to the Lord to worship. Let us then seek to be like the Magi and worship in humility rather than missing it because of our earthly desires. *O Lord, during this Epiphany season, please keep me focused on You rather than the cares of this world. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:1-6 – The Light of Christ Shines

Today, we hear about the light of God shining on His people, rousing them from their slumber. In the same way, the light of the star shone on the Magi and spurred them to seek out the Christ that they may worship the new-born king. In the same way, the Gospel of Jesus Christ shines on us. It rouses us from the dark slumber of eternal death and instead calls us into the light of salvation. What a wonderful joy it is to be counted amongst those who have been illuminated by the light of Jesus. We can joyfully give Him the praise that He rightly deserves. *O Lord, keep me in this faith that I may always see Your light shine in the darkness and find my hope and comfort in You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:1-7 – Christ is The Light

Today we return to the prophecy of Isaiah and we see the words of the Servant. Here, we find the Father telling His servant that He will be a light to the nations. This servant is of course, our Lord Jesus Christ. It was the son of Mary who was called Jesus while He was still in the womb. It was Jesus who was kept by the Father and prepared for His ministry. It was Jesus who was called to bring light to the tribes of Jacob. But He is also the light to the nations. He is your light. It is Jesus who calls us always onward, keeping us firm on the path of righteousness. *O Lord, may Your light always guide me ever onward in my faithfulness to You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:13-17 – The Revealing of Jesus to the People

Today we see another significant event in the life of our Lord. We read about His baptism. The baptism of Jesus is something about which many scholars and theologians have said a great many things. But for us and for our theme this week, we remember that at His baptism, Jesus is revealed to the people. As we saw yesterday, the Father kept His servant until the proper time. At His baptism, the arrow that was Jesus was pulled from the quiver and revealed to the people. It was revealed to all present that day that Jesus is the Son of God. In Christ, we too are made the sons of God and He is pleased with us on account of Jesus. *O Lord, I thank You for revealing Your Son to me and for giving me the grace to be wrapped in His righteousness that I do not deserve. I pray*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 3:23-31 – The God of the Gentiles Also

Today, we see with clarity the point that we have been focusing on this week. Our place in the people of God is secured because our God is the God of the Gentiles as much as He is the God of the Jews. Indeed, in Romans, Paul makes the point that those who worship Jesus are properly understood to be the legitimate children of Abraham more so than those who might simply claim ancestry. This is the value of the light of Christ shining on the nations; that even the Gentiles are saved, Gentiles just like us. Truly, this is only out of God's immense grace and mercy that He has for His creation. *I praise You, O Lord, for making me righteous and justifying me through faith for I could never have achieved it by my own works, but that Your Son has done the work for my salvation for me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 72 – The Light is our King

We conclude our week by returning to the Psalms and seeing a psalm that describes the kingship of our Lord. He is the King who rules forever in unquestionable power. His power is such that His enemies eat the dust before Him. And yet, this Light Who draws people to Himself is no tyrant. No, He is the One who helps the helpless and the needy. He has pity and mercy on those who need it. He is a kind and righteousness King, who judges all things rightly. This is a valuable picture of our King, especially as people who may not serve an earthly king and have no real idea what that would look like. But in Jesus, we have a King worth following. *I thank You for granting me to see Your light with the eyes of faith that I may be counted amongst those who live under You in Your kingdom. Amen.*

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