

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 77:18, 84:1-2, 4, 9-11

The lightnings lit | up the world;*
the earth trem- | bled and shook.
How lovely is Your tabernacle, O | Lord of hosts!*
My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts | of the Lord.
Blessed are those who dwell | in Your house;*
they will still be | praising You.
Behold, O | God our shield,*
and look upon the face of Your A- | nointed
For the Lord God is a | sun and shield;*
the Lord will give grace and | glory.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Matthew 17:5

“Behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.””

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, who in the glorious transfiguration of Your only-begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the fathers and who, in the voice that came from the bright cloud, did in a wonderful manner foreshow the adoption of sons, mercifully make us co-heirs with the King of His glory and bring us to the enjoyment of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, 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
How Lovely Shines the Morning Star**

TLH 343, LSB 395
Philipp Nicolai



1. How lovely shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining,
Thou David's Son of Jacob's race,
My Bridegroom and my King of Grace,
For Thee my heart is pining.
Lowly, Holy,
Great and glorious, Thou victorious
Prince of graces,
Filling all the heavenly places.

5. Thou, mighty Father, in Thy Son
Didst love me ere Thou hadst begun
This ancient world's foundation.
Thy Son hath made a friend of me,
And when in spirit Him I see,
I joy in tribulation.
What bliss is this!
He that liveth To me giveth
Life forever;
Nothing me from Him can sever.



“God Manifested in the Transfiguration of Jesus”

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 21-27, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: **God Manifested in the Transfiguration of Jesus**

“Listen to Him.” God the Father commands us to listen to His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus all the wisdom of God is manifest. In Jesus all the glory of God shines forth. In Jesus the life of God is found and the grace of God is given. This week we rejoice in Christ, the light of the world, the light of man, and the only hope for poor sinners.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 17:1-9, The Hidden Glory**

To see Jesus in His transfigured glory! The apostles fell on their faces in fear. Imagine, instead of on the mountain with three disciples, if Jesus would've transfigured on Good Friday. The soldiers drop their hammer and nails; the High Priest hands over his headdress; Pilate gives Jesus his throne; all the people fall on their faces in fear and wonder. This is what really surprises me: the hidden glory of Jesus. He did not stop His suffering and crucifixion and death with the radiance of divine glory. He hid that glory for us. The transfigured Lord is the crucified Christ, the One who freely chooses to suffer to free us from eternal suffering. *O Lord Jesus Christ, grant that the glory of Your transfiguration would illuminate Your grace toward us. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 87: A Hymn of Praise to the City of God**

It is strange to sing praise to a city, but this is God's city, the heavenly Jerusalem. “Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.” This city of God is His kingdom, His people, the church, and glorious things are indeed spoken of us. We are the redeemed of the Lord. We are those ransomed from sin, rescued from death, delivered for the demonic kingdom of darkness, and transferred to the glories of the city of God. The Most High Himself has established this city, made us citizens by our baptism, registered us in the Lamb's Book of Life, and keeps us safe and still in this eternal city of life and peace. *O Lord, we praise You for establishing Your city, Your Church, and enrolling us as citizens. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **2 Peter 1:16-21: The Prophetic Word Made Sure**

St. Peter is remembering the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah and the cloud of glory and the heavenly voice of God the Father. “We were eyewitnesses of His glory... when we were with Him on the holy mountain.” What was Peter's take-away? We expect Peter to speak of the glory of Jesus, or His divine authority. Instead, Peter talks about the Old Testament. “So we have the prophetic word made more sure.” When Jesus stands with Moses and Elijah He gives His stamp of approval to the Old Testament prophets. Their preaching is right and good. Their promises: they are all fulfilled in Christ. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Christ, the beloved Son of the Father. *Lord Jesus, let the light of Your Word shine in our hearts. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 61:10, 11, Hidden in the LORD's Beauty**

I imagine forgiveness as a taking away. The Lord takes away our sin, puts away our mistakes, removes our transgressions. True. But there is more. Forgiveness is also an addition. The Lord gives to us His righteousness, His perfection, His holiness, His keeping the Law, His obedience. This garment of the righteousness of Christ, the beautiful, exquisite, brilliant, dazzling, beaming, flawless, stunning, radiant robe of woven perfection is wrapped around your neck and draped across your shoulders and covers your shame and uncleanness and sin. He shares His beauty with you. “My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness.” *We praise You, O LORD! Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 19:27-30, No Home but an Eternal Throne**

I'm surprised that Jesus doesn't chastise Peter for boasting, and warn about pride. Jesus does say, “many who are first will be last, and the last first.” But Peter's pride at leaving everything to follow Jesus is met with a reassurance from the Lord. “You will sit on thrones... You will judge the angels... You will inherit eternal life.” Truly our suffering in this life is not worthy to be compared to the glory that waits in the life to come. All tears will be wiped away, all shame covered in light, all loss returned a hundredfold. Jesus collects all that the world casts out. He will gather us up in the new world when we awaken to see His face. *Heavenly Father, help me to stand in the hope of Your making all things new. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 4:5, 6, “Let there be light!”**

The same voice that spoke into the cosmic darkness and light left into existence is the voice that has spoken into the darkness of our sinful hearts. The light that shines in our dark hearts is the radiance of the face of Jesus. His smile enlightens our hearts. His glory illuminates our minds, cleanses our consciences, establishes our hope. His image restores us to a life that never ends. How wonderful that the Creator is also our Redeemer, and our Comforter and Friend. He speaks, and we are alive with the knowledge of Christ, the forgiver of sins. *O Lord, continue to shine in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 8: What is Man?**

What is man? Weak and dying. Rebellious and sinful. A fury of cursing and sacrilege. We are unholy, unclean, and unworthy of the Lord's care. But He cares. He cares with flesh and blood. God becomes a man. Humble, He is made a little lower than the angels, lower even into our suffering, lower into our sin and shame, lower into our death. In the suffering of Jesus God is mindful of us. He is graciously minded toward us, He smiles upon us, forgives our sins, delights in us with a joy that will have no end. What is man that You are mindful of us? Man is crucified, buried, raised, and sitting at the Father's right hand. *O Lord, be mindful of us through the blood and glory of Your Son. Amen.*

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