



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



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| <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>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>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>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> |

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**

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 this 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 times. We are a distracted and proud people who believe that God winks at our sins, that we can delay repentance, and neglect His word. God, we believe, understands that deep down we're good people and that we don't really mean anything by it. To this John would rouse us from our sleepy indifference. God is judge and He demands holiness. He is no respecter of persons. So John comes as a voice crying in our wilderness - 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 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: **Psalms 5 "Let those who put their trust in Thee rejoice..."**

We cry out to God in our distress, our groaning, and our tears, and the Lord hears us. This should comfort and console every pious Christian heart. For it is this same doctrine which our Lord taught us concerning Himself "blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matt. 5), "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (Luke 5). The prideful and the deceitful man does not think he needs mercy and grace, and shall receive none. But those who take refuge in the Lord, who know the Triune God to be gracious and merciful toward sinners, shall receive favor and righteousness as a gift. *Lord Jesus, You have mercy on those who need You. I need You. Have mercy on me. Amen.*

TUE

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 go and gather around the manger of God's Word and promises. They go to God's house where God has promised to be. We are 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.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **John 1:1-14, Christmas Day - The Word is Made Flesh**

The ancient pagans told myths of the gods taking human form in order to dwell among mankind, (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 once took on and still bears our human flesh in order to save His people from their sins. He has taken up our cause and identifies with us in every way. What no other religion has ever dreamed is the very basis of the Christian faith, namely that 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.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 23:34-39, St. Stephen - The First Martyr**

Right on the heels of the joy of Christmas flows the blood of the martyrs. St. Stephen was the first man 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, so will you. *Lord Jesus, strengthen me for a good confession through my life and conversation with others. Amen.*

FRI

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. The hairs of your head are numbered. You are His. *Lord Jesus, I give You thanks for St. John and for the word which You spoke through him. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 2:13-18, Holy Innocents**

Why should 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 will die, but His hour has not yet come. The baby boys of Bethlehem had the honor of dying for their Lord. They were removed quickly from this dark and dying world. Their death is swallowed up by Jesus' death to come. 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 and your children. *Lord Jesus, account me innocent in Your death and resurrection and bring me to Your glory. Amen.*

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