

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 93:5, 2, 1, 3-4**

Your testimonies are | very sure;*
holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, for- | ever.
Your throne is established | from of old;*
You are from ever- | lasting.
The Lord reigns, He is clothed with | majesty;*
The Lord is | clothed with strength.
Surely the world is es- | tablished,*
so that it can- | not be moved.
The floods have lifted | up their voice;*
the floods lift | up their waves.
The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many | waters,*
than the mighty waves | of the sea.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 111:1**

“Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O heavenly Father, as You gladden our hearts again to celebrate the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, mercifully bestow on us the joy to receive Him as our Redeemer and so welcome Him when He comes again to be our judge; 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
To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

TLH 103
Martin Luther



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| 1. To shepherds as they watched by night
Appeared a host of angels bright;
Behold the tender Babe, they said,
In yonder lowly manger laid. | 4. What harm can sin and death then do?
The true God now abides with you.
Let hell and Satan rage and chafe,
Christ is your Brother--ye are safe. |
| 2. At Bethlehem, in David's town,
As Micah did of old make known;
'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King,
Who doth to all salvation bring. | 6. Ye shall and must at last prevail;
God's own ye are, ye cannot fail.
To God forever sing your praise
With joy and patience all your days. |



“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.

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

Jesus is the “shoot from the stump of Jesse” (Isaiah 11:1). Jesus not only “made heaven and earth,” (Psalm 121:2b) but He was sent by the Father “to be lower than the angels” (Hebrews 2: 9). He lived among men as a man, taking our nature upon Himself to “redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:5). “He sent redemption to His people” (Psalm 111:9a) in His incarnation, the taking on of human flesh and blood, in the worship of Simeon and Anna, in His cleansing in the temple, and the sacrifice of turtle-doves. This is the meaning of the incarnation, namely, our salvation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:33-40 — Prophets Declare Jesus’ Death

The Holy Family is in the Temple learning of the death of Jesus from two prophets. First, Simeon, raising Jesus in his arms, says to Mary, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul).” Next is Anna who thanks God because the redemption of Jerusalem is here! Jesus’ birth leads to Him being raised on a cross outside the Temple. That is the price of our rising and redemption — the blood of our incarnate God who is Christ the Lord!
O Lord, help us to see Your Son’s incarnation and death aright. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 121 — Jerusalem Declares Where our Help Comes From

Living in Colorado we can see mountains and hills all around us. None of them can answer the question: “From where does my help come?” Only Jerusalem, where God was present in the Temple, provides the answer. Jerusalem says that it’s the “Lord, Who made heaven and earth.” He “will neither slumber nor sleep.” This Lord is our incarnate Jesus, who “will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.” He did this when He took on human flesh, died on the hill of Jerusalem outside of the Temple, and rose on the third day.
O Lord, You neither slumber nor sleep because You are our salvation. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:1-7 — Adopted as Sons on Account of Jesus

Man cannot get to God. No works can earn us a place before His throne. We are sinners who constantly break God’s law. So, God has come down “in the fullness of time” to redeem us in Jesus born of Mary. He was born under the Law to save us. So we can, as St. Paul says, “receive adoption as sons,” in baptism. As sons, we are heirs, not to a mighty and powerful politician, artist, or military commander. Rather, we are heirs of God, the Creator of heaven and earth.
O Lord, we praise You for sending Your Son to make us into sons. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11:1-5 — The Trinity Fulfills Isaiah

Jesus, is the “shoot from the stump of Jesse.” Later He’s called the “root of Jesse.” He is the eternal Son of God whose origins are beyond that of even Jesse, the father of King David. We are told that Jesus’ delight “shall be in the fear of the Lord,” who is the Father. Everything Jesus does is by the “Spirit of the Lord,” the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is active in the ministry of Jesus that began in His incarnation in the womb of Mary, through the Good Friday cross, Easter Resurrection and is coming again for you.
O Lord, You are higher than King David for You are the stump of Jesse that bears forgiveness for us. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-32 — Departing in Peace that Only Jesus Can Give

After receiving Christ’s true body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar, we sing the words of St. Simeon. We rejoice with him who held the lowly infant in his arms in the Temple. Our eyes, like his, have seen God’s salvation. We see Him in what is given to us: the Word and Sacrament. On the altar is where we receive it. We pray to “depart in peace.” We are forgiven. We are ready because we have Jesus and all of His benefits.
Lord, let us depart in peace when the time comes. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 2:9-16 — Jesus’ Humiliation was For Our Salvation

The author to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus was “made lower than the angels.” But this was just “for a little while.” Jesus who is fully God chose to not always use or demonstrate His divine power, and so appeared lower than even the angels that He created. Jesus took upon the appearance of a servant to set you free. And this Jesus was crowned with thorns and hung upon a cross and rose again on Easter. He drained the cup of death for you, so you don’t have to drink from it.
Lord, we rejoice in Your humiliation that set us free. Amen

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111 — Praise the Lord for All of His works

Hallelujah! Great are God’s works of salvation! He remembers His covenant forever. When God remembers in the Scriptures, it’s not like us remembering something we needed to buy at the grocery store. When God remembers, He acts. In this case, He fulfills the covenant made to Abraham by taking on flesh and blood in the womb of Mary. He causes us to remember the covenant and what Jesus did on Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. We remember by the Word that is preached and the Sacraments that are administered according to His commands.
Help us to praise You, O Lord, forever. Amen.