

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 77:18, 84:1-2, 4, 10-11

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 You're 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 17:8

And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

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.



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, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: God Manifest in the Transfiguration of Jesus

God isn't found in the places we would look. Not in the power of angelic armies, but in the person of Jesus. Fully God and fully man. To see Jesus is to see God. We look for mountain top experiences desperate to experience something unique, but He displays His glory in weakness. The hour where God was glorified was the hour He was crucified for you. It is a joy to find Jesus in lowly means, because those means are all around us. Bread, wine, water, word, all of these things bear the finding of God to you. The transfiguration isn't about wishing for more, but finding the fullness of God where He reveals Himself, even if it looks like less.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 17:1-9 Jesus Only

The best part of the Transfiguration is the end. When the cloud and the glory and Moses and Elijah are gone, lifting up their eyes, the apostles saw "Jesus only." Moses and Elijah are hidden. They appeared for a few minutes while Jesus' face shone like the sun: a glimpse of saints at Jesus' side. In Jesus and only in Jesus do we receive all these glorious things. Resurrection, glory, safety, every reason Peter wanted to build tents, we find all of these things in Christ. We don't need the mountain. We already have Jesus.

O Lord, fix our eyes ever on Jesus only, that we may see all things needed in Him alone. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 87 Zion is up.

The City of Zion sounds amazing. Everyone wants to live there. The Mormons place it in Utah. The Jews in the Middle East. But the city of God is not carved from stone, but from the wood of the cross. The Lord loves the city of His redeemed. He counts it a joy to pen your name into the book of life: the list of those born in Zion by water and Spirit. Wherever you live, by the waters of your baptism, your citizenship is in Zion.

Lord, by water and Spirit, You bring us through the gates of Zion. Teach us to rejoice that we are born in her. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:16-21 The resurrection was always farfetched, and always for you

The resurrection was farfetched, a miracle hard to believe. Peter knows how many would call this a "cleverly devised myth." It would be easier to have a status quo religion without all the miracles, but you can't throw away the Scriptures that make you uncomfortable. These words are from the Holy Spirit. We don't treat the Bible as a burden, but as our confidence and joy. These words are a gift, a lamp shining in a dark place. They are farfetched, scandalous, and miraculous, yet they bring the same light and life to you.

O Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts with the truth and joy of Your Word. Amen.

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:10, 11 I rejoice because God loves me

It astounds me, after all these years, to see love in my wife's eyes. I rejoice. How can I not? Our Lord sees us in love, as a bridegroom sees His bride. He has not looked at my sin, but has clothed me in baptism, the robes of righteousness. He adorns Himself with a headdress of thorns for me. His love gives me life and hope and love. The garden causes what was sown to grow. God causes righteousness and praise to spring up even as He first sowed it in me.

Lord Jesus Christ, ever gaze upon Your bride in love, that seeing the works Your love has wrought, we may rejoice and respond in the same love for You and our neighbor. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:27-30 – Jesus isn't an investment. He is the source of all good things

Isn't it a good thing the disciples were early adopters? They got in on the ground floor of the whole Jesus thing. They invested, giving up home and family, and it paid dividends. Except not. Jesus didn't die so the first can receive their extra special bonus. He died for the last, the least, the sinner. He died for all, that we may be given the reward He earned in heaven. Christ, who was first, even the "Alpha," has made Himself last, leaving home and Father to redeem us and win for us a heavenly home.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have given all to make us, the last, first. Bring us at last to the home You have prepared for us, that we may rejoice with Paul and all the saints. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:5, 6 God is only visible in the Son

We look for God in all the wrong places. We stumble in the darkness grasping at where we wish or imagine God would be. There is only one place where the light pierces the darkness. There is only one way we deal with God. Through the person of Jesus. In the face of Jesus Christ, the knowledge of the glory of God is revealed. God has a love and a righteousness so fierce He would die for you to redeem you from your sins. You don't need to grasp in the darkness. The Son is light for you.

O LORD, You let light shine out of darkness in the face of Your Son. Grant to us right knowledge of Him that we may recognize His glory and gather where He makes Himself present to save. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8 Why would God make us?

Why would God make us, knowing we would sin? What is man, that You are mindful of Him? We are less than the angels, who deserve Your care, yet You have given us dominion over the works of Your hands. God made us, not because He needs anything we can do or make, but because He loves us. His love cannot abandon creation, even a fallen one. It enters it to redeem us, to conquer the enemies of sin, death, and the devil. He humbles Himself so that we might be exalted.

O LORD, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth! Still the enemies that surround Your beloved, that we may ever find peace in Your love. Amen.

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