

“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 96:4-6**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

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 6-12, 2019

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

This week, we will consider our worship of Christ. Why do we worship Him? Who worships Him? How do we worship Him? Why is He worthy of worship? These are questions that by pondering them, we will grow in our appreciation of the chance to worship and eagerly join together with Christ's saints in lifting our voices in praise and song for our Lord, the only begotten Son of God born of Mary.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12 We Worship Not Just a King, but the Messiah

Who worships Jesus? The visit of the Magi makes us consider this question. We don't know who the Magi were. We don't know what they believed or what gods they worshipped. Remember, this is occurring in a time when it was not uncommon for kings to be worshipped as gods. But this child who they worshipped was not in a palace. He was not wearing fine clothes. He was found in a humble home in Bethlehem. Yet the Magi worshipped Him as a king nonetheless. Our worship is something far greater. Our worship is of Jesus Christ as true God and true man, our Messiah. He is our King Who was enthroned not on a golden seat, but a cross. *Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son who is my King and my Savior. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 96: We Sing To and About our King

How do you worship Jesus? In this Psalm, we see the command for creation to sing and tell of God. Truly, there is much to sing about and there is much to tell. Yesterday, we read about the Magi coming to worship Jesus as a king. In this text, we see the grander truth of His reign. He is King not of just a country, but all of creation! He is the mighty King through which everything was made that has been made, Scripture tells us. But even this is not the full picture of His glory. He is the King Who comes to judge. And those who are faithful are judged righteous. This is a wonderful judgment, such that even the rest of creation celebrates with us! That is something most certainly worth singing about. *Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who judges me righteous through faith. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:1-6: Who Left the Light On?

Why do you worship Jesus? In this text, we are reminded of the benefit that Jesus Christ brings to us. He is our Savior Who is the light of the world. He is the One Who comes to drive away the darkness of sin from us and from our world. It is strange to think that a child born in a small town like Bethlehem would be the one to do this. But in the wisdom of God, this is exactly what happened! We worship our Lord Jesus because we thrill and exult in the blessings that He lavishes upon us. Not only the things that we need in this life, but more importantly, the light of salvation that shines on us. Truly, the little Christ child brings the light of heaven to us. *Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who brings light into our darkness. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:1-7: Even Kings Bow Before Him

Why do kings worship Jesus? In this text, we see one of the beautiful examples of God speaking to His suffering servant, our Lord Jesus Christ. Why does it conclude with kings prostrating themselves before Jesus? After all, Isaiah also sees that this same servant is despised by the nation. Jesus is hated by the world, but at the end, even kings must bow down before the Holy One of Israel. He is the mighty Redeemer who saves not by the sword, but by shedding His blood. The disdain of the nations lead to His death on the cross for the very people who wanted to see Him dead. But His blood also redeems you from your sins. There is no one better to bow down before! *Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who has suffered for me and redeemed me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:13-17: The Fulfiller of Righteousness

Who is Jesus that He should be worshipped? In this text, we see the answer to so much of what we have been asking this week. Just who is this Jesus who the Magi came to see and who Isaiah and David spoke of? He is the beloved Son of God. He is the One Who came to fulfill all righteousness. This is why we worship Him. He is the One Who is the source of our righteousness. Jesus Christ is the true Son of God as attested to by His Father and it is confirmed with His Resurrection as well. He is the King, the Servant, the Redeemer Who brings righteousness to us. That little child in Bethlehem begins His ministry that brings salvation to us. He is truly worthy of our worship! *Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who brings and gives me righteousness. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 3:23-31: Who Do You Think You Are?

Is there room for our boasting in our worship of Jesus? This text makes it clear that the answer is a resounding no! We are reminded here that we have nothing to boast about. Our sins mean that we fall far short of the glory of God. We are not worthy to be in the presence of God because of our sin. Yet, in Christ we are made worthy. In Christ, we find justification and freedom from our sins. This is an incredible gift that we receive and it is absolutely worthy of our praise and thanks. We worship Jesus not to tell Him how good we are, but to be reminded of the goodness that He has given to us completely out of His own love for us. *Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who has redeemed from my sin and justified me before You. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 72: Better Than the Rest

Why is Jesus worthy of our worship? Jesus Christ is the King. He is the suffering Servant. He is the Bringer of righteousness and justification. And these things are good, but let us close this week with a reminder that He is worthy of our worship and praise too. He is the One Who delivers the needy. The One Who helps the poor and the weak. He is the One Who judges and brings prosperity. We worship Jesus because there is no other being worthier of worship than Him. There is no one else who can come close to comparing to Jesus. That is our God, our Lord, our King, and our Messiah. We aren't forced to worship Him, but we get to worship Him. *Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who receives my prayers and praise. Amen.*

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