

“The Birth of the Christ-Child”



**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,<br/>             Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,<br/>             Dost take a manger for Thy throne,<br/>             While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.<br/>             Hallelujah!</p> <p>3. A little Child, Thou art our Guest<br/>             That weary ones in Thee may rest;<br/>             Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth<br/>             That we may rise to heaven from earth.<br/>             Hallelujah!</p> | <p>4. Thou comest in the darksome night<br/>             To make us children of the light,<br/>             To make us in the realms divine,<br/>             Like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.<br/>             Hallelujah!</p> <p>5. All this for us Thy love hath done;<br/>             By This to Thee our love is won;<br/>             For this our joyful songs we raise<br/>             And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.<br/>             Hallelujah!</p> |
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**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, we're ending Advent and heading into Christmas, the celebration of our Lord's birth. Along the way, we'll make a quick detour to spend a day with St. Thomas, the Lord's chosen apostle. Thomas wasn't sure about the Lord's resurrection, and mercifully, Jesus came to Thomas. He bids Thomas touch and see His resurrected flesh which was born to make atonement for the world's sin through death. Christmas and Good Friday go together. This week helps to teach this important lesson. We'll also hear from John the Baptist, who wasn't the Messiah or the Prophet, and yet he faithfully prepared the Lord's way. He points away from himself to Jesus, the true Messiah and eternal Prophet. Jesus is our incarnate God and Lord who provides comfort for His people through the forgiveness of sins.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **John 1:19-28 — Jesus is Greater**

John is the Voice. He is not the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet promised by Moses. Rather, John testifies about another. He confesses the truth of what the Holy Spirit has revealed to him. He doesn't sway in the wind of men's opinions. He dutifully points to Jesus. That's John's job. Is John worthy of the task he's been given? Of course not. John knows this. But it's not about John, who baptizes with water. It's all about Jesus "Who is and was and is to come." Jesus, in His Good Friday death, is the one who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus alone. *Lord, help us to hear Your Voice. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 5 — Lord Hears our Prayers**

When troubles come, there is a part of us that doubts if God will hear our prayers. We think He's far from the words of our groaning and pays no attention to our sighs. Do not lose heart. God hears us. He hears our words and has sent His Word into flesh to give us comfort and peace. This week we celebrate the birth of the One who longed to gather Jerusalem under His wings. He has gathered you under the protection and forgiveness of His cross. *Let all who take refuge in You rejoice. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **John 20:24-31 — Touch and See**

Jesus isn't a ghost. He has a body, a resurrected body. Jesus shows the unbelieving Thomas that His body is the same one that suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified upon a tree and died. He is flesh and blood. Thomas touched and saw the Lord was really there. By hearing and faith, you should also come and see the body that was in the womb of Mary for nine months and born in a manger continues to live today. Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord Who came as one of us, to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. Even for you. *Lord, help us to remain Your blessed ones who believe without seeing. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 40:1-8 — Comfort, comfort**

Comfort, comfort. Your warfare has ended and your iniquities are pardoned. Comfort, comfort. The sin that causes you to fear, doubt, and despair before the face of the living God has been removed. The sin that is the source of so much pain has been removed. Jesus declares to you that He has taken your sins upon himself. In return, He has given you the victory. You are forgiven. He died upon the cursed tree so that you may eat of the tree of life. *Lord, keep us in Your comfort and peace. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 1:67-80**

Our reading today is Zechariah's song, the Benedictus. The name comes from the opening words of this hymn of praise, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people." God's covenant of salvation made with Abraham was fulfilled. The Lord was visiting and redeeming His people. Through the new covenant established by His Son's blood, He is redeeming you. Not in John, Zechariah's son, but through Jesus whom Mary carried in her womb. Salvation is in Jesus whose death and resurrection obtained God's eternal favor. (Is 40:5).

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2:1-14 Birth and Shepherds**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means "House of Bread," to be the Bread of Life for you. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes at His birth to be wrapped in linen at His death so you may live. He was laid in a manger of stone to be later laid in a tomb in the earth. Helmut Thielicke was fond of saying that the crib and the cross are of the same wood. His birth is for you. His death is also for you. Without Christ's birth, there would be no hope in our world. Without his death, we would still be lost in our sins. God be praised! Our Savior has come! *Lord, help us to rejoice with the angels that our Savior is born. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **John 1:1-14 — Jesus is the Word from the Beginning**

Today we celebrate the Word, through whom all was made, assume our human nature and enter His creation as one of us. Jesus is the true Light that brings us out of the Darkness of unbelief, sin, and death. He has assumed flesh and blood to give us men of flesh and blood eternal life through His death and resurrection. All who believe in Him will not perish but have eternal life. So come today and be fed the flesh and blood of the eternal Word and live forever as one forgiven. Merry Christmas! *Lord, keep us in Your light as we celebrate the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord. Amen.*