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| nnointed  
For the Lord God is a | sun and shield:*  
the Lord will give grace and | glory.  

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  

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.  

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.  

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 February 5-11, 2017

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

Christ’s Transfiguration gloriously revealed God who had chosen to hide Himself in the flesh of mankind in order to redeem it. It is tempting, like Peter, to try and keep Jesus in glory. But Christ’s hour of glory does not occur on the mount of Transfiguration, but on the mount of the cross. There, God finishes the work He began in the Garden of Eden, the work of crushing the serpent’s head and redeeming mankind. Therefore, rather than trusting in the glory that our eyes see, we must trust in what our ears hear declared from God’s Word. We must learn to hear with Peter— “This is My beloved Son . . . listen to Him.”

WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:10, 11 — Robed in Righteousness

God’s people already possess the “garment of salvation” and the “robe of righteousness.” Once again, you cannot trust what your eyes see. When you look at your life, you see sin and wickedness: when you look at the lives of fellow Christians, you also see them struggling with sin. But hear what Isaiah says: God has already “clothed” him and “covered” him with the righteous garments of Christ. So has God also declared you righteous, and clothed and covered you. And when He clothes you, He also makes you into a fruitful garden producing good works for the glory of His name. Gracious Father, send us Your Holy Spirit, that having received the robe of righteousness, we might live fruitful lives for You. Amen.

THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:25-27 — Jesus Reveals the Father to You

In the Transfiguration, Jesus gave a few disciples a brief glimpse of His glory. As magnificent as that sight no doubt was, Jesus gave to the disciples a greater gift: the revelation of the Father. Apart from Jesus, it is impossible to know the Father. God has chosen only to reveal Himself to little children, through Jesus Christ. Do you want to know the Father? Look to Jesus. In Jesus, God—who is love—chose to reveal His love through Jesus’ suffering and death on behalf of sinful men. And now, through Jesus, God the Father knows you; you are His little child. Loving Father, grant us grace to receive You as You reveal Yourself to us in Your Holy Word. Amen.

FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:5, 6 — We Proclaim Christ

Not proclaiming ourselves proves to be a difficult task. We naturally focus on ourselves and our successes. Even when we speak about our faith, we find ourselves tempted to focus on how we have succeeded in overcoming this or that temptation. However, we do not proclaim ourselves but Christ. Be wary of the one who uses his spiritual success as a flashlight to reveal Christ. Instead, look to Christ, the light of the world. Through His Word, He shines a light into your heart, revealing your sin and need for His saving work. Forgiving Father, send Your Holy Spirit, that having received the light of the world, we might not dwell in darkness, but the enduring light of Your love. Amen.

SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8 — What is Man?

What are men that God would be mindful of them? Nothing. Men took the great gifts of God and through sin, corrupted everything, so that God even had to subject the entire creation to futility on account of them. Because of men, God had to send His Son to suffer and die. What are men? Nothing. Let us praise the Man Christ, the One who hid His divinity within human flesh. In Him, the impossible happened: God died. And reconciled the world to Himself, placing all things under the feet of this one Man, who is not simply a man, but also the Son of God. Almighty God, thank You for sending Your Son to take on our flesh and be our Savior. Amen.