

**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 **Luke 2:21**

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty eternal God, we heartily implore You, grant that we may know and praise Your dear Son as did Simeon, who took Him up in his arms and faithfully knew and confessed Him; 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



- |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. To shepherds as they watched by night<br>Appeared a host of angels bright;<br>Behold the tender Babe, they said,<br>In yonder lowly manger laid. | 3. Oh, then rejoice that through His Son<br>God is with sinners now at one;<br>Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,<br>Your brother is the eternal God. |
| 2. At Bethlehem, in David's town,<br>As Micah did of old make known;<br>'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King,<br>Who doth to all salvation bring.  | 4. What harm can sin and death then do?<br>The true God now abides with you.<br>Let hell and Satan rage and chafe,<br>Christ is your Brother--ye are safe.  |



**“The Christ Child in the Temple”**

**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 Christ Child in the Temple**

St. Luke's account of Jesus' early life revolves around the temple and the fulfillment of the ceremonial law. This shows that all the ceremonial laws, particularly the ones governing sacrifice, point us to the incarnation of Christ, and in particular, His crucifixion and death. Already at eight days old, the child Jesus shed his first drops of blood at his circumcision to redeem us from sin and death (Luke 2:21). Because Jesus was born under and fulfilled the Law for us, we are redeemed and made sons of God (Galatians 4:1-7). The readings this week reveal the Christ, who came to save us.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2:21: The Circumcision and Name of Jesus**

The Lord commanded circumcision beginning with Abraham and his household in Genesis 17 as a sign of covenant between God and His people. St. Luke highlights the circumcision of Jesus to show how He already began to fulfill the Law for us. The Lord's name, Jesus, which means "savior," begins to be fulfilled. This event brings about the first shedding of Christ's blood for us sinners. As the hymn puts it, "While from His mother's bosom fed, His precious blood He wills to shed; A foretaste of His death He feels, An earnest of His love reveals." *Lord God, You made Your beloved Son subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins. Amen.*

MON


SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 121: I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills**

This is not a psalm about the Von Trapp family escaping the Nazis. Instead, it is a psalm of ascent, one sung by Israelites going to Jerusalem for one of the major feasts: Passover, Pentecost (Weeks), or Booths. So, to look to the hills for the Lord's help is to look up to the temple mount to Jerusalem, where He promises to meet His people and forgive their sins. We no longer look to the physical temple mount for the Lord's gracious presence among us, but we look up to the altar, where the Lord is near as your shadow at your right hand (v. 5). *Lord God, forgive our sins daily and bring us quickly back to Your house, that we may hear Your Word and receive the gifts You give in the Sacrament. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Galatians 4:1-7: God's Son is Born to Make Us God's Sons**

From the time of our conception and birth, we are enslaved under the power of sin and death. But the Son of God was born under the same Law that held us under captivity to fulfill it. Now, we may look to the ceremonial Law and see in it the promise of Christ. We may even look into the moral law (Ten Commandments) and see the righteousness of God, which Christ has also fulfilled for us by actively doing what God commands. Even though we cannot possibly hope to live up to those demands, Christ has covered us in His righteousness in Baptism, making us sons of God and an heir of eternal life. *Heavenly Father, grant us confidence to pray to You, even as children approach their dear father. Amen.*

 **WORLDVIEW** Everlasting is pleased to bring you Around the Word devotions. For more theological awesomeness visit [www.worldvieweverlasting.com](http://www.worldvieweverlasting.com).

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 11:1-5: The Righteous Branch**

Jesus, as true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, is certainly righteous in Himself. But this also applies to Christ's human nature, too. Jesus perfectly obeyed the Father's will by actively fulfilling the whole Law of God for us. Additionally, Christ also obeyed the Father's will by His passive obedience, His suffering in our place. Jesus' desire to obey the Father in all things shows that He is of one will with the Father. By His life and death, Jesus clothes us with His own righteousness in Holy Baptism. *O Lord, remove our sin-tattered robes and clothe us in the perfect righteousness of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we might stand in the judgment with the righteous. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2:22-32: The Lord Comes to His Temple**

Part of the ceremonial law included purification rights for the mother and a sacrifice to be made to redeem a mother's firstborn son. While the holy family is in the temple with Jesus, Simeon gives a stunning prophecy about the child: that Jesus is the Lord's salvation in the flesh. Perhaps even more amazing, especially for us, is that this child is the salvation of both Jews and Gentiles. Though we are not of the house and line of Abraham, we are blessed by his Offspring, who has shed His blood for us, that we might receive the inheritance of Abraham—the righteousness of faith in Christ Jesus. *O Lord, grant that we may behold the salvation accomplished for us in the pure preaching of Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 2:1-12: The Epiphany of Our Lord**

The visit of the Magi, sometimes called the wise men, ends the Christmas season and begins the season of Epiphany, where the flesh and blood of Christ is revealed to the nations as the Son of God. The collect for the day (prayed in part below) speaks of the star leading them to Jesus. However, it is worth noting that God's Word from Micah is what lead all who wondered about these events to see that the child born in Bethlehem was the one born King of the Jews. Thanks be to God that He still reveals this same Christ to us in His Word today. *O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your Only begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 111: He has Shown His People the Power of His Works**

It is a unique feature of Christianity and the claims made by the Word of God that they are based on historical events. On Sunday, we heard about the historical event of Christ's blood being shed at His circumcision. On Thursday, we heard about Christ coming to His temple, as Simeon bore witness to these things. Yesterday, we heard about the visit of the Magi, who learned about the place of Christ's birth from the Prophet Micah. The salvation God accomplished for us was not done in secret or in a hidden, spiritual manner. The Lord's works are done in the sight of all people, and He caused them to be recorded for us in His holy Word. *O Lord, grant that we might see and believe the salvation accomplished for us as we hear it in Your Word. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal and are brought to you by Worldview Everlasting ([www.worldvieweverlasting.com](http://www.worldvieweverlasting.com)). Visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org) to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email [bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com](mailto:bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com). Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to [sanctus.org](http://sanctus.org) and [lutheran-hymnal.com](http://lutheran-hymnal.com) for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is **Rev. Jordan McKinley**, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vallonia, IN ([trinityvallonia.com](http://trinityvallonia.com)). He lives in Brownstown with his wife, Andrea, and their three children.