

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.



SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 2 Corinthians 4:6

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."



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



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.



PRAYER FOR **OURSELVES AND OTHERS**



SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star Philipp Nocolai



- 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.

TLH 343, LSB 395



Around the Word Devotions + January 24-30, 2021

"God Manifested in the Transfiguration of Jesus"



BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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 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.

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 24-30, 2021

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

Jesus is God in the flesh, and on the mountain of Transfiguration that divine glory shines through for all to see. But Jesus did not come to earth to be a spectacle. His incarnation is not for Himself, Like everything He does, it is for us. We remember the transfiguration when Jesus is crucified. We remember how He was covered in light when we see Him covered in blood. We remember how He talked with Moses and Elijah as we see Him placed in the tomb. We know that it is the Mighty One, the Most High, who has humbled Himself to the point of the death on the cross, and in this we rejoice. God's glory is hidden in Christ, and we are hidden in Him as well.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 17:1-9: The Father's Son

We hear the voice of God the Father three times in the New Testament: at Jesus baptism, in Holy Week, and here at the transfiguration. Each time the Father points us to the Son. He fixes our eyes, and especially our ears, on Jesus. "This is My beloved Son... Hear Him!" We Christians are Jesus hearers. We, His sheep, hear His voice, and we rejoice at what He says. Jesus, the radiant Son of God, does not accuse or condemn us. He forgives our sins. He comforts our consciences. He picks us up and prepares us for the glory of Judgment Day with His words, "Arise, and do not be afraid." Heavenly Father, send us the Holy Spirit to open our ears to hear and believe the words of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:27-30: The Way Jesus Puts Us in Line

This text always surprises me. Peter boasts to Jesus, "See, we have left all and followed You." I expect Jesus to cast down the haughty, but He turns to Peter with a gentle kindness and astonishing promises. "You will sit on twelve thrones [and you] shall a hundredfold and inherit eternal life." The Christian is called to forsake the word, to take up their cross, to follow Jesus on the narrow and difficult path of discipleship. But this (let the Christian understand) is not loss. We have Jesus. We have His victory over sin, death, and the devil. We have a share in His life that will never end. Our inheritance is His kingdom. We might lose the world, but we have the greatest treasure imaginable: Jesus is our savior. Dear Jesus, give us joy in our heavenly treasures. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:16-21: What Peter Learned on the Mountain

What joy to hear Peter's reflection on the transfiguration. We, he says, "were eyewitness of His majesty." Peter heard Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah, and the voice of the Father from the clouds. "We heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain." And what lesson does Peter take from this? Trust the Scriptures. "We have the prophetic word confirmed." The Transfiguration of Jesus was the fulfilment and confirmation of the Old Testament promises, God's stamp of approval on the Scriptures. If Jesus, radiating with divine glory, is pleased to hear from Moses and Elijah, then we, too, delight to hear the wisdom and comfort of God's prophets. Give us joy. O Lord, in the prophetic Scriptures. Amen.



SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:10, 11: The LORD's Jov

You want to know what's rarer that gold and diamonds? Joy. This world is gloomy. The news is gloomy. The devil is gloomy. The world feels dark and the future seems bleak. Everything around us seems to be in a grand conspiracy to destroy hope, and hope's twin sister: joy. In spite of it all, the Christian has joy. "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God." Why? "He has clothed me with the garments of salvation!" Let that slap your ear and capture your heart: the Lord has stripped off the tattered and filthy robes of your failure and sin, and clothed you with the glorious robes of Christ's righteousness.

I know you don't deserve that kindness, that's why there is so much joy! O LORD, restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:25-30: Soul Rest.

Rest for our bodies is nice. Jesus gives something more. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest... you will find rest for your souls." Our souls are always busy with the dangerous work of preparing for the judgment day. We are working to be good enough, holy enough, righteous enough to stand before God, and all these works fail. All have sinned. All fall short of God's glory. All are guilty. But Jesus has done the work. His suffering and death is your salvation. The work, Jesus says, "is finished!" He meant it. Your salvation is accomplished. In His promise our hearts find comfort and peace. In His Gospel our souls, at last, find rest. Lord Jesus, take away our sin and give us Your easy voke and light burden. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:5, 6: Light Up the Dark

The LORD is always putting lights in dark places. Into the darkness that covered the new earth He said, "Let there be light." In the Egyptian wilderness He stood up a pillar of fire. He hung a star one night in Bethlehem. And in perhaps the deepest darkness He has "shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." We, the people who dwelt in darkness, have seen a great light. Jesus is the light of the world, but more, His light shining in our hearts shows us the way to the Father, the way to life eternal. Enlighten our hearts, O God, by the brightness and glory of the face of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8: The Humility and Glory of the Son of Man

Psalm 8 comes alive when we see that the "Son of Man" in verse 4 is Jesus. He, astonishingly, was made lower than the angels in His humiliation and death. He was exalted and crowned with glory and honor in His resurrection and ascension. He suffered before He entered into glory, and this is why the LORD's name is declared as excellent in all the earth. The Lord is not just great, He is great for us, wonderful for us. With wonder we say: the Lord was pleased to be glorified in humiliation, and wonderful in His redeeming death. We praise the most excellent name of the Lord: "Jesus," the One who saves His people from their sins. O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth. Amen.

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