

“God Manifested in the Youth 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 **Luke 2:52**
 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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 7-13, 2024

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

At Christmas we celebrate that God has become Man. In Epiphany, we celebrate that the Man Jesus is God. He is God not just from His ascension, resurrection, or baptism, but from the beginning. The Child conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, born in Bethlehem, worshiped by the Wise Men, who went to the temple in Jerusalem at age 12 is God. As God in human flesh, Jesus Christ perfectly carried out the duties required by the Law, including both carrying out the business of His Father and submitting to His parents' authority. He did so for us sinners, that His righteousness would be credited to us through faith alone, and by the same faith alone, we strive to follow His example of faith toward God and fervent love toward one another.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:41-52 – Fulfilling the Law of Love toward God and the Neighbor

This is the only event we have recorded in Scripture from Jesus' childhood. While we may be curious as to what Jesus was like as a boy, God in His wisdom gave us all that we need to know. For here we learn that Jesus perfectly fulfilled both tables of the Law, even as a child. He devoted Himself to the things of God and was obedient to His parents according to the Fourth Commandment. This, then, is what God wants us to know about Jesus' childhood: Christ, the Son of God, was obedient under the Law for us. *Lord Jesus, as You loved both God and Your neighbor, help us by Your grace to do the same. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 13 – The Loving Discipline of the Lord

In times of trial, it's easy to think that God has forgotten us or perhaps even that He has turned His face against us. But the Bible teaches us that the cross is not a tool of God's hatred but His love: "The Lord disciplines the one He loves." (Hebrews 12:6a) When we are in the depths of sorrow, let us follow the example of David and turn to the Lord in prayer. In boldness and confidence we bring our complaints before Him, and with the same confidence we believe that He will ultimately deal bountifully with us. *O Lord our God, hear our prayers and grant us deliverance from all our afflictions. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-5 – By the Mercies of God

The Old Adam cannot stand the thought of self-sacrifice. He is concerned with his own honor and glory, even if that means treating others with contempt. But as Christians we rejoice to present our bodies as living sacrifices, not thinking of ourselves more highly than others but serving the other members of the Body of Christ. We do so by the mercies of God alone, for by faith we know that the Lord Jesus humbled Himself even to death on the cross for us, so that in Him we might have the hope of the glories of heaven. *O God, by Your mercies help us to be living sacrifices before You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:1-3 – Jesus is True God and True Man

Jesus of Nazareth is no mere man. To consider Him to be nothing more than a prophet, saint, or teacher, even if He were the greatest and best of these, is to reject Him in unbelief. No, Jesus of Nazareth is both true Man and true God. He is the Second Person in the Holy Trinity, from whom, as with the Father, the Holy Spirit proceeds. Therefore the spiritual gifts Jesus possesses are not limited, like with other men, for the Holy Spirit is and remains Christ's in fullness for all eternity. *Heavenly Father, grant us Your Holy Spirit to confess Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be Lord and God. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:13-16 – Receive the Kingdom of God like a Child

It's not just that little children, even infants, can believe in their Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus says that they are the model believers, the example which every Christian should seek to imitate. For Christ wills that we trust in Him and Him alone for salvation, without trying to mingle in our own works or efforts. As the baptized children of God, let us recognize our complete and total dependence on God for every blessing, and let us rejoice that Jesus loves us and grants us all that we need for our bodies and souls now and forever. *Heavenly Father, grant us, Your dear children, faith in You alone for every good gift. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:1-4 – Love for Others in the Lord

Jesus found no conflict between His duties toward His heavenly Father and toward Mary and Joseph. To love your neighbor as yourself is like the command to love the Lord with everything you have. We who are baptized into Christ follow His example of love. We love God, and this is seen in love for others. In the home, love is lived out as children obey their parents and parents bring up their children in the Christian faith. Loving God and loving our family shouldn't conflict, for all that we do as Christians toward our neighbors is "in the Lord." *Heavenly Father, thank You for the great blessing that You have given us in our family. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86 – Teach Me Your Way, O Lord

"As we have heard this week, Jesus fulfilled the Law on our behalf, loving God and His neighbor perfectly. Like little children, we trust in Him completely for our salvation, even in times of trial and tribulation. We are also thereby strengthened to follow His example of love and service toward our neighbor, especially in the home. We know all this only because the Lord has taught us His way. In His pure Word alone, unmingled with any human teachings, we walk through this life in God's truth, the pure doctrine that leads us to our eternal home in heaven. *Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth. Amen.*

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