

“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 **Matthew 3:15**  
 “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

**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 TLH 130  
Martin Behm  
**O Jesus, King of Glory**



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| <p>1. O Jesus, King of Glory,<br/>                 Both David's Lord and Son!<br/>                 Thy realm endures forever,<br/>                 In heaven is fixed Thy throne.<br/>                 Help that in earth's dominions,<br/>                 Throughout from pole to pole,<br/>                 Thy reign may spread salvation<br/>                 To each benighted soul.</p> | <p>6. And bid Thy Word within me<br/>                 Shine as the fairest star;<br/>                 Keep sin and all false doctrine<br/>                 Forever from me far.<br/>                 Help me confess Thee truly<br/>                 And with Thy Christendom<br/>                 Here own Thee King and Savior<br/>                 And in the world to come.</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: God Manifested in the Youth of Jesus

Jesus is *for you* and He is *for your children*. From beginning to end He is for you. As a child He was in His Father's house showing that the Temple, the priests, and the sacrifices were fulfilled in Him. At His baptism, He numbered Himself with sinners so that the sinner could be numbered with Christ. And in our daily lives He is still for you and still for your children. Parents, God has charged you with making sure your children know that Jesus is for them. For how will they know unless they are told, and told more than once, but on a consistent, even weekly basis? All things are fulfilled in Christ and finished on His cross. Now be where Christ is for you today, because He still is, in Word and Sacrament, so that you might find comfort in His salvation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:41-52—Jesus In The Temple

Mary treasures all of these things in her heart. It's what a mother does. But I think that all of this treasuring is more than remembering the things of the past. Sure, this is her child, but at the same time He is God in the flesh. And so everything that He does has a purpose. To be in His Father's house is to be about His Father's business. Even at twelve, Jesus isn't too young to begin fulfilling His purpose. Since it was Passover, what better time to stay a little while extra in the Temple. Soon He would be the Passover Lamb, and even now He is the Temple, the place where God dwells with His people. And so yes, little boy Jesus, we know that You must be in Your Father's house, except sometimes we forget what that even means. So show us once again and point to Your cross even now. *Passover Lamb, draw us to our Father's house. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:13-17—The Baptism Of Our Lord

Jesus numbers Himself with sinners right there in the water. John doesn't get it, sinners rarely do. He believes that he should be baptized by Jesus. He's right, but not yet. The sinner can't be numbered with the righteous until the Righteous is numbered with the sinner. So into the water with Jesus! Jesus immerses himself into the muck of sin and the slime of shame and the stink of death. He comes out of the water and is anointed by the Holy Spirit, for this is what it means to fulfill all righteousness. This is why the Father is well pleased with the Son: Because the Son stands in the place of sinners to save sinners from their damnation. This work of suffering in your place is most pleasing to God the Father. For the sake of his Son's death in your place, He is well pleased with you. *Gracious Lord Jesus, thank You for fulfilling all righteousness and numbering Yourself with sinners. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-5—The Body Of Christ

Paul is concerned about the body of Christ, about how we see our neighbor and treat the person standing next to us, confessing the same exact faith. As living sacrifices the way in which we serve God is to serve our neighbor. All of us have been made to be one in the body of Christ. None is greater or lesser than the next, although our sinful flesh would like to say different. Paul says the same thing that James says in his Epistle, which is the same thing that Jesus constantly said in the Gospels: If you think that the cross lets you continue in sin and not forgiveness then you don't understand the cross, which means you don't understand the law in regard to how it effects your neighbor through you. Christ has made you to be a justified saint in Him, and He has given you your neighbor to serve, not to sin against. *Gracious God, may we discern what is good, acceptable, and perfect. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:1-3—Another Prophecy Fulfilled

Jesus quotes these words to John's disciples after he had sent them to ask Jesus if He was the Christ. Notice that Jesus doesn't answer with a "Yes." That would be simple enough, but not all that convincing. Instead, He goes back to Isaiah and speaks the words of the prophet that were spoken about Him. Not only is He doing all of these good things, but He is doing them just like it had always been prophesied. Of course Jesus is the Christ. There is no need to go and look for another, even while you are sitting in prison, waiting for your head to be served on a platter. Because the captivity that Jesus frees you from is not the temporal bars, that we all might end up behind on account of him, but instead the bars of sin and the cell of a grave. From these things are what Christ will grant us freedom and liberty. *Christ, proclaim the year of the Lord's favor that we might be comforted. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:13-16—The Little Children of Jesus

Finally we have been brought back to children, but it isn't 12-year-old-Temple-Jesus, but instead it is little infants, little babies being brought to Him for blessing. Jesus was not too humiliated to begin His work of fulfilling all righteousness as a little child, why then would He humiliate the little children around Him who desperately need His salvation. Blessed are the parents of those children in our text. Blessed are the parents in our midst who know that Jesus is for their children and so bring their children to baptism and then to church each and every Sunday after that. Don't be like the disciples who think that Jesus is too important to be bothered by children. Instead, bother Jesus constantly with your little ones. He wants it. He desires it. He commands it, because He is for them just as much as He is for you. *Jesus, gather Your children into Your loving arms. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:1-4—Parents and Children

Children, obey your parents. This is nothing new. It's Fourth Commandment stuff. God has given you parents because He loves you and desires for you to be nourished and nurtured in this earthly life. So honor them as you would God, because they are His representatives here in this broken down world. They are given for your good so that you are brought up in the ways of the Lord and are protected from the evil that wants to see you dead in your trespasses apart from your Savior. And parents, love your children enough to give them Jesus at every opportunity. Sports and vacation and "family time" are all well and good, but how will they know of Christ unless you bring them to the place where Christ is for them? Don't be like the disciples in yesterday's text. Jesus is for your children, make sure they know that. *Lord, may we serve our neighbor in the vocations we have. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86—Let Us Pray

*O Lord, may You hear my prayer for I am in constant need. In You is life, and apart from You I would have not breath. Lift up my soul in the steadfast love of Your forgiveness. As I cry to You, answer me in Your Word of promise. Although I deserve nothing of which I ask, I ask it nonetheless, trusting in Your grace and mercy. For there is none like You. You alone are the God of creation and so all the nations will come to You, will be drawn to You. Teach me and all the peoples Your ways so that we might delight in Your steadfast love and recognize the deliverance You have won for us through Your Son. In the midst of trial and suffering turn to me, O God, for I cannot turn to You. In the person of Your Son, by the proclamation of Your Word and a table prepared before me, show me a sign of Your favor toward me. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

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