

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 9:2, 6, 1, 2, 5**

The people that have walked in darkness have seen | a great light.*
Unto us a | Child is born.
His name shall be called wonderful counselor, the | mighty God,*
the everlasting Father, the | Prince of Peace.
The Lord reigns, He is clothed with | majesty;*
The Lord is clothed, He has girded Him- | self with strength.
Surely the world is es-/ tablished,*
so that it can- | not be moved.
Your throne is established | from of old;*
You are from ever- | lasting.
Your testimonies are | very sure;*
Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, for- | ever.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 2:11**

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord God, gracious Father, who in the fullness of time sent Your Son to become man, assume our flesh, and become our Brother, we implore You to keep us in true knowledge of our Redeemer, by whose birth we are delivered from sin, death, Satan, and hell, that with all the holy angels we may rejoice at His Nativity and behold Him 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
All Praise to Thee, Eternal God

TLH 80, LSB 382
Martin Luther



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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. All praise to Thee, eternal God,
Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne,
While worlds on worlds are Thine
alone.
Hallelujah! | 4. Thou comest in the darksome night
To make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine,
Like Thine own angels, round Thee
shine.
Hallelujah! |
| 3. A little Child, Thou art our Guest
That weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth
That we may rise to heaven from earth.
Hallelujah! | 5. All this for us Thy love hath done;
By This to Thee our love is won;
For this our joyful songs we raise
And shout our thanks in ceaseless
praise.
Hallelujah! |



“The Birth of the Christ-Child”

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 Birth of the Christ-Child**

Jesus was born of the virgin to save His people from their sins. He is “God with us,” clothed in human flesh. Truly God. Truly man. Truly Savior. This week we reflect not just that Jesus used to be much cuter, but also the lengths God would go in order to save sinners. This salvation is offered freely to you and all the world. In a world that measures favor by strength and works, God teaches us to measure His favor in the weakness of the cross. God saved us by becoming what the world despised, that we would be called holy through His merit.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2:1-14 Peace doesn't come from quiet**

All I want for Christmas is peace and quiet. My world is too noisy; My kids, phone, job, and every family obligation this time of year. Noise. Chaos. Everything seems to stop while I stare into a candle and sing Silent Night, but as soon as it's over, the noise comes flooding back in. Peace doesn't come from quiet. An angelic host ruined a quiet night. “Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace!” God is born into our noise and chaos and sin to bring peace to you. Peace is knowing God saved us.

Lord, cut through the noise of this season with Your Word of peace, born into chaos to save sinners. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 85 – Immanuel means God with us**

Glory dwelt in our land. God was made flesh to be near to us, and He comes to win us salvation. Christ was born to restore what sin destroyed, to forgive the iniquity of His people, and to cover our sin. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet where God is born of a virgin, clothing Himself in human flesh. Behold the steadfast love of the Lord. Your God has entered creation to turn the wrath of God upon Himself and revive His people in His own death and resurrection. Merry Christmas!

Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on Jesus, not just as an infant tender and mild, but as God made man to grant salvation to sinners. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 23:34-39 – Jesus died for St. Stephen and his murderers too.**

We are unhealthily eager to paint ourselves as martyrs. There are still atrocities committed. Pastors are chased from pulpits for speaking the Word they were sent to preach. Bakers are dragged into court. That is bad, but people threw rocks at Stephen until he died. That is worse. You don't need to be Stephen. Jesus doesn't weep over martyrs, He resurrects them. He weeps over murderers. He would gather even unbelievers under His wings, yet they are not willing. We don't measure God's love by our willingness to sacrifice, but by His. Jesus died for all, martyrs and murderers, to give life.

O Lord, draw near to the city that kills the prophets, teach us to sing Hosanna, and answer us with life. Amen.

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **John 21:19-24 Jesus loved St. John as much as he claimed.**

Not getting along with folks in church isn't new. Peter and John fought with the best of them. John makes it clear in his gospel which of the two Jesus prefers. There is Peter, and the disciple who Jesus (actually) loved, John. Still, Jesus speaks the same to both. Follow me. John wasn't special because of his faith, his intellect, or that he can totally run faster than Peter to the tomb, but because He is called to be with Jesus. We don't form churches by our ability to get along, but by each of us sinners being joined to the Lord.

Lord, unite us sinners in the apostolic faith of St. John, that we may be called to follow You through the grave unto life everlasting. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 2:13-18 The Holy Innocents and strength in weakness**

Christ allow Himself to be born so helpless in the face of so many people who needed help? Herod slaughtered children looking for Him. He couldn't stop it. Today, millions more are murdered. Where is God? Rachel refuses to be comforted. She died in childbirth. Things are not ok. She named her child ben-oni – son of my sorrow, son of my strength. Later, her husband named him Benjamin. By a dying woman's last breath He shows what kind of God He is. His strength is shown in weakness. He died to save those who could not save themselves.

Lord God, by Your weakness on the cross, show strength to save those desperate for Your salvation. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Hebrews 1:1-12 The Word of God is the Word About God**

Long ago, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets. In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son. This Son testifies not of us, but of Himself, what He has done for us, and who we are in Him. We would love to be the subject of God's book, to measure ourselves and condemn each other, but God speaks not about us, but of Himself for us. His Word gives us the hope and confidence of His saving love for us.

O Lord Jesus Christ, fix our eyes on You, that receiving Your words, we may find comfort in Your promises. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 110 – David's Son Yet David's Lord**

Our religion ties us to God in mystery. He is true God, yet true man. He has sworn to save us, and will not change His mind. He draws us to Himself, washing us clean in the holy garments of baptism. All these things are so much bigger than us. We cannot understand them, but we can receive them. If love was so small that you could completely understand it, it wouldn't be worth much. God doesn't reveal Himself so that we would understand Him, but so that we would receive Him and be saved by Him.

O Lord, having washed us clean in baptism and clothed us in holy garments, draw us to Yourself that we may offer You our praise. Amen.

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