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 everlasting.
The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty: The Lord is clothed with strength.
Surely the world is established, so that it cannot 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.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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 MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: 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 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 granted me this day, and I pray that You would graciously keep me this evening; and I commend my body and soul, in all things, to the Spirit, to whom I commend myself. Amen.
THEME OF THE WEEK: The Birth of the Christ-Child
Jesus is the “shoot from the stump of Jesse” (Isaiah 11:1). Jesus not only “made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:2b) but He was sent by the Father “to be lower than the angels” (Hebrews 2:9). He lived among men as a man, taking our nature upon Himself to “redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:5). “He sent redemption to His people” (Psalm 111:9a) in His incarnation, the taking on of human flesh and blood, in the worship of Simeon and Anna, in His cleansing in the temple, and the sacrifice of turtle-doves. This is the meaning of the incarnation, namely, our salvation.

The Holy Family is in the Temple learning of the death of Jesus from two prophets. First, Simeon, raising Jesus in his arms, says to Mary, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul).” Next is Anna who says, “The child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul).” This Lord is our incarnate Jesus, who “will keep you from all evil; He will neither slumber nor sleep.” This Lord is our incarnate Jesus, who “will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.” He did this when He took on human flesh, died on the hill of Jerusalem outside of the Temple, and rose on the third day.

After receiving Christ’s true body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar, we sing the words of St. Simeon. We rejoice with him who held the lowly infant in his arms in the Temple. Our eyes, like his, have seen God’s salvation. We see Him in what is given to us: the Word and Sacrament. On the altar is where we receive it. We pray to “depart in peace.” We are forgiven. We are ready because we have Jesus and all of His benefits.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 2:9-16 — Jesus’ Humiliation was For Our Salvation
The author to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus was “made lower than the angels.” But this was just “for a little while.” Jesus who is fully God chose to not always use or demonstrate His divine power, and so appeared lower than even the angels that He created. Jesus took upon the appearance of a servant to set you free. And this Jesus was crowned with thorns and hung upon a cross and rose again on Easter. He drained the cup of death for you, so you don’t have to drink from it.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111 — Praise the Lord for All of His works
Hallelujah! Great are God’s works of salvation! He remembers His covenant forever. When God remembers in the Scriptures, it’s not like us remembering something we needed to buy at the grocery store. When God remembers, He acts. In this case, He fulfills the covenant made to Abraham by taking on flesh and blood in the womb of Mary. He causes us to remember the covenant and what Jesus did on Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. We remember by the Word that is preached and the Sacraments that are administered according to His commands.

Lord, help us to see Your Son’s incarnation and death aright. Amen.

O Lord, You are higher than King David for You are the stump of Jesse that bears forgiveness for us. Amen.

O Lord, let us depart in peace when the time comes. Amen.

Lord, we rejoice in Your humiliation that set us free. Amen


 Luke 2:33-40 — Prophets Declare Jesus’ Death

Isaiah 11:1—5 — The Trinity Fulfills Isaiah
Jesus, is the “shoot from the stump of Jesse.” Later He’s called the “root of Jesse.” He is the eternal Son of God whose origins are beyond that of even Jesse, the father of King David. We are told that Jesus’ delight “shall be in the fear of the Lord,” who is the Father. Everything Jesus does is by the “Spirit of the Lord,” the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is active in the ministry of Jesus that began in His incarnation in the womb of Mary, through the Good Friday cross, Easter Resurrection and is coming again for you.

O Lord, You are higher than King David for You are the stump of Jesse that bears forgiveness for us. Amen.

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