

“God Manifested in the Transfiguration of Jesus”



5 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.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 2:29**

“Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word.”

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

8 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.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

TLH 343, LSB 395
 Philipp Nicolai



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.

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 Transfiguration of Jesus

The Transfiguration leaves us with the temptation to look for our own mountain. We want something special. Instead, God gives us words, water, bread, and wine to sustain us. It seems like a letdown until you realize the apostles had to go back down the mountain and watch their Lord die. His mercy flows out of the weakness of the cross, not out of the strength of the experience. His mercy is delivered not in rare moments of wonder, but daily and richly that we would seek the Lord where He has promised to be found. We receive the same transfigured Jesus in Word and Sacrament. The “for you” of the promise grants comfort and not fear.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-32 Forget About the Birds

Forty days after His birth, Jesus is brought to the temple. Something should die for Mary’s purification. Simeon answers postpartum depression, weakness, and whatever went wrong with a promise. These women were loved, redeemed, and so were their children. As soon as Simeon sings, we forget the turtledoves. The real sacrifice is Jesus, who will bleed to save His people. Simeon may die in peace. Mary receives the same. We sing the same hymn. Our eyes see the same salvation in communion. Whatever sin and death that would follow us to the rail, we depart in peace. *O LORD, may we who have seen the Lord’s salvation depart in His peace, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 87 There Are No Outsiders in Jesus

Korah sings of Zion composed of all nations. The outsiders are mentioned, but we’re told they were born here. All nations are born into Zion by baptism. There is no Jew or Gentile. We are the children of God, recorded in the book of life. Outsiders stop being outsiders in Jesus. You don’t have to wait for the resurrection. Through the church, you have a family, a body, a unity that surpasses understanding and even the damage sinners can do to one another. You are children of God. You were born here. You belong. *Father in heaven, as You have united us into sonship in Christ, sustain us as brothers and sisters in the same mercy unto life everlasting. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:16-21 More Than a Feeling

Peter saw the Transfiguration. He witnessed the majesty. It was so much he couldn’t bear it. It was an experience to end them all. He would have you trust something more sure: the Word of God. We don’t go by the big experience, but by the word of truth. Peter had to come back down the mountain. Experiences come and go, but God wants you to trust the eternal Word. Which means God can be found outside of wonderful experiences, which is just where we need Him most. He brings light to darkness and forgives your sins. *O LORD God, sustain us ever with Your word of truth, that trusting in things eternal and not things transient, we may know the peace which never fades, and ever cling to You for life. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:10, 11 This One’s About Baptism

We rejoice in the Lord for baptism. We wear salvation in white robes, washed clean in the blood of the Lamb. He names us the bride, clothed without blemish or spot before the bridegroom. He makes children of Abraham from stones that sprout up in all nations from water. They praise Him for His gift, given through water and Word. The Old Testament isn’t different than the New. It speaks of the same Lord, the same promises. All of scripture points to the mercies of God, so when He promises to work at the font, we would expect nothing less. *Heavenly Father, Your eternal Word points to the gifts given in Jesus Christ Your Son. Comfort us in the same, that rejoicing in Your mercies, we would find peace in Your gifts. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:25-27 Jesus Only

By trying to make Christianity more, we always make it less. We want more than Jesus crucified and raised for our salvation. How does that help me get a raise? Self improvement? Then we act shocked when it doesn’t work. The wise always think they can figure it out. We love to face religion as adults, on our works, rather than little children, who can only receive. The truth is hidden. The kingdom isn’t earned. It’s given. Jesus gives it to even the least of these, and it’s yours whether you do enough to earn the raise or not. *O Lord, fix our eyes on Jesus only, that we would never leverage the cross for our own gain, but receive the salvation won there for our good, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:5, 6 Your Feelings Can’t Save Me

So many testimonies start with our experiences, works, and feelings. Paul says we don’t proclaim ourselves, but Christ. To talk about God is to talk about Jesus. Not just because Jesus is God, but because if you want to understand the Father and the Spirit, you must start with the Son. From the face of Jesus shines the knowledge of God. The understanding of the Father who created is shaped by the cross. Your expectation of the Spirit is molded by the promises the Son makes. Start with the cross, the center of God’s work of love. Start with Jesus. *O Lord, let us ever see the fullness of Your revelation in Christ crucified, that we would proclaim Your promises as You reveal them. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8 Strength Out of Weakness

The Lord establishes strength out of weakness. God conquered the devil by becoming an infant. He was crowned with glory and honor woven of thorns, made lower than the angels He created. Raised from the dead, and seated at the right hand of the Father, all things were put under His feet. Christians find their worth and their might in Jesus, Who was made low that we would be exalted, Who was crucified that we would live, and Who now rules His creation in mercy for you. *O Lord, as You brought life out of death and strength out of weakness, sustain us now who are weak in the promises of the same victory You won for us upon the cross. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week’s author is **Pastor Harrison Goodman**. He and his wife Lisa have 2 toddlers, and he is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Winside & St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll (www.stpaulinside.com).