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,*
“All hail to the Lord, who reigns!”
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 genera | tions.
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,
Thy name be hallowed, 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 TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK  Exodus 34:6
“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”
READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)
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.
PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS
SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  TLH 130
O Jesus, King of Glory
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.
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

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.” The Lord Jesus as a boy grew in faith no differently than we did. He was strengthened by the Holy Spirit at work in the Word of God. Unlike us, however, He did not grow for His own benefit, but for our sakes. The Scriptures with their teachings are the source of our life, the foundation of our complaints, the confidence for us and those around us who remain in darkness. The Scriptures reveal who our God is: the Lord of mercy, Who gives His Son into death to atone for our sins. The catechism shows Him to be a God like no other; and He is ours.

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**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:41-52—Of the Father’s Will and Word

"About His Father's house or His Father's business," that is how the boy Jesus' response may be understood. They belong together because the Father's business is revealed in His house, the Temple. It is His wish to make atonement for sinners so that He may meet graciously with them to give His blessing. In Christ, the new Temple made without hands, this will be done once and for all. Here the Son of God learns as we all do from the Holy Scriptures what the will of God is. And His will, business, and the purpose of His house is forgiveness and life. Lord, let me learn and grow in Your Word. Amen

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**MON**

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 13—Divine Complaint Department

Will you forget me forever, Lord? How long? These are words of lament. Many people have taught us that we should not question or complain to God. The Psalms teach differently. It is a godly thing to bring prayers of sorrow and even frustration before God. Most everyone enjoys complaining—to everyone! But the person whom it concerns. God is the one who can do something about our struggles, especially those deep in body, soul, and mind. Bring your complaint to Him. And add to it faith: Lord, hear my complaint, strengthen my trust in Your mercy, and restore the joy of Your salvation. Amen

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**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 12:1-5—Dumb Without the Scriptures

Even speechless, motionless idols are able to lead astray the darkened pagan mind of sinful humanity. That’s how foolish sin makes us. We require the leadership of the Holy Spirit constantly because we cannot be left to ourselves. But where does the Spirit speak? He speaks in the Holy Scriptures. And the Spirit will not, nor can He contradict Himself. The Scriptures must be our touchstone, therefore. They are not mute, but full of the Spirit’s truth. Beware anyone who contradicts them, but do not be surprised. Lord, renew in me Your Holy Spirit and preserve me from the spirit of darkness and idolatry. Amen

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**WED**

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 61:1-3—Christ Jesus

In Greek, Christ; in Hebrew, Messiah; in English, Anointed. This title is important because it shows that Jesus has an office, with duties that must be done. In particular, He proclaims the year of the Lord’s favor; that is, God's grace through His fulfillment of all righteousness. We call people “messiahs” in hopes that they live up to the title. God, not us, appointed Jesus. He will live up to His Names. Above all, His name is “Jesus,” because He saves His people from their sins. This is His task and office as the Christ for us. Lord, anoint me with righteousness and gladness to be Your Christian. Amen

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**THU**

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 10:13-16—Faith Like a Little Child

Jesus (who was a child) loves children. That is a fine posture to imitate. But Jesus wants us also to imitate the faith of a child. Yes, infants and children have faith! They trust in God from the womb and the breast; they believe in Jesus and God wants none of them to be harmed. Faith is not a matter of personal strength and willpower; it is a matter of depending on the One who promises because He is faithful and will surely do it. That is how we enter and receive the Kingdom— as an inheritance, whether young or old. Lord, remove all hindrances from us that we may abide in Your blessing. Amen

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**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 6:1-4—Take Your Catechism to Heart!

We see the boy Jesus gladly learning His catechism in the Temple. If the Lord must do this, we cannot think ourselves wiser. Parents may teach many lessons for life, but the most important instruction is in the fear and instruction of the Lord. The father, so long as there is one, is the head of the household by God’s order. And notice for what purpose this is true: not provoking children (or wives) to anger, but to bring up and to teach the family. Father and mother are to answer their child’s good questions, so that the child may also answer in turn. Give us fathers after Your own heart, Heavenly Father! Amen

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**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 86—None Like Him Among the gods

The nations the Lord made will come to Him. This was a comfort to Israel who had to fight for survival against many nations: it was comforting to the prophets and to St. Paul because it proclaimed the salvation of the Gentiles that would come in Christ. It remains comforting for us. The whole world is in the Lord’s hands and care, not only to preserve it, but also by the Word and His Spirit, to save it in Christ. He has not given up on the heathen yet! His patience is not slow but merciful. He is slow only to anger; He abounds in steadfast love and faithfulness. Lord, unite my heart to fear Your name. Amen

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