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 Anointed 
For the Lord God is a | sun and shield:* 
the Lord will give grace and | glory.

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

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 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 Manifest in the Transfiguration of Jesus

God isn’t found in the places we would look. Not in the power of angelic armies, but in the person of Jesus. Fully God and fully man. To see Jesus is to see God. We look for mountain top experiences desperate to experience something unique, but He displays His glory in weakness. The hour where God was glorified was the hour He was crucified for you. It is a joy to find Jesus in lowly means, because those means are all around us. Bread, wine, water, word, all of these things bear the glory of God to you. The transfiguration isn’t about wishing for more, but finding the fullness of God where He reveals Himself, even if it looks like less.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 17:1-9 Jesus Only

The best part of the Transfiguration is the end. When the cloud and the glory and Moses and Elijah are gone, lifting up their eyes, the apostles saw “Jesus only.” Moses and Elijah are hidden. They appeared for a few minutes while Jesus’ face shone like the sun: a glimpse of saints at Jesus’ side. In Jesus and only Jesus do we receive all these glorious things. Resurrection, glory, safety, every reason Peter wanted to build tents, we find all of these things in Christ. We don’t need the mountain. We already have Jesus. O Lord, fix our eyes ever on Jesus only, that we may see all things needed in Him alone. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 87 Zion is up.

The City of Zion sounds amazing. Everyone wants to live there. The Mormons place it in Utah. The Jews in the Middle East. But the city of God is not carved from stone, but from the wood of the cross. The Lord loves the city of His redeemed. He counts it a joy to pen your name into the book of life: the list of those born in Zion by water and Spirit. Wherever you live, by the waters of your baptism, your citizenship is in Zion. Lord, by water and Spirit, You bring us through the gates of Zion. Teach us to rejoice that we are born in her. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:16-21 The resurrection was always farfetched, and always for you

The resurrection was farfetched, a miracle hard to believe. Peter knows how many would call this a “cleverly devised myth.” It would be easier to have a status quo religion without all the miracles, but you can’t away the Scriptures that make you uncomfortable. These words are from the Holy Spirit. We don’t treat the Bible as a burden, but as our confidence and joy. These words are a gift, a lamp shining in a dark place. They are farfetched, scandalous, and miraculous, yet they bring the same light and life to you. O Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts with the truth and joy of Your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:27-30 – Jesus isn’t an investment. He is the source of all good things

Isn’t it a good thing the disciples were early adopters? They got in on the ground floor of the whole Jesus thing. They invested, giving up home and family, and it paid dividends. Except not. Jesus didn’t die so the first can receive their extra special bonus. He died for the last, the least, the sinner. He died for all, that we may be given the reward He earned in heaven. Christ, who was first, even the “Alpha,” has made Himself last, leaving home and Father to redeem us and win for us a heavenly home. Lord Jesus Christ, You have given all to make us, the last, first. Bring us at last to the home You have prepared for us, that we may rejoice with Paul and all the saints. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:5, 6 God is only visible in the Son

We look for God in all the wrong places. We stumble in the darkness grasping at where we wish or imagine God would be. There is only one place where the light pierces the darkness. There is only one way we deal with God. Through the person of Jesus. In the face of Jesus Christ, the knowledge of the glory of God is revealed. God has a love and a righteousness so fierce He would die for you to redeem you from your sins. You don’t need to grasp in the darkness. The Son is light for you. O LORD, You let light shine out of darkness in the face of Your Son. Grant to us right knowledge of Him that we may recognize His glory and gather where He makes Himself present to save. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8 Why would God make us?

Why would God make us, knowing we would sin? What is man, that You are mindful of Him? We are less than the angels, who deserve Your care, yet You have given us dominion over the works of Your hands. God made us, not because He needs anything we can do or make, but because He loves us. His love cannot abandon creation, even a fallen one. It enters it to redeem us, to conquer the enemies of sin, death, and the devil. He humbles Himself so that we might be exalted. O LORD, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth! Still the enemies that surround Your beloved, that we may ever find peace in Your love. Amen.