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 praise to the Lord God Omnipotent who reigns!
Make joyful your shouts to the Lord, all you lands!* Serve the Lord with gladness; Know that the Lord 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 everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

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 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 Infancy of Jesus

This week, we will consider our worship of Christ. Why do we worship Him? Who worships Him? How do we worship Him? Why is He worthy of worship? These are questions that by pondering them, we will grow in our appreciation of the chance to worship and eagerly join together with Christ’s saints in lifting our voices in praise and song for our Lord, the only begotten Son of God born of Mary.

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**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 2:1-12 We Worship Not Just a King, but the Messiah

Who worships Jesus? The visit of the Magi makes us consider this question. We don’t know who the Magi were. We don’t know what they believed or what gods they worshipped. Remember, this is occurring in a time when it was not uncommon for kings to be worshipped as gods. But this child who they worshipped was not in a palace. He was not wearing fine clothes. He was found in a humble home in Bethlehem. Yet the Magi worshipped Him as a king nonetheless. Our worship is something far greater. Our worship is of Jesus Christ as true God and true man, our Messiah. He is our King Who was enthroned not on a golden seat, but a cross. Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son who is my King and my Savior. Amen.

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**MON**

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 96: We Sing To and About our King

How do you worship Jesus? In this Psalm, we see the command for creation to sing and tell of God. Truly, there is much to sing about and there is much to tell. Yesterday, we read about the Magi coming to worship Jesus as a king. In this text, we see the grander truth of His reign. He is King not just of a country, but all of creation! He is the mighty King through which everything was made that has been made, Scripture tells us. But even this is not the full picture of His glory. He is the King Who comes to judge. And those who are faithful are judged righteous. This is a wonderful judgment, such that even the rest of creation celebrates with us! That is something most certainly worth singing about. Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son who judges me righteous through faith. Amen.

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**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 60:1-6: Who Left the Light On?

Why do you worship Jesus? In this text, we are reminded of the benefit that Jesus Christ brings to us. He is our Savior Who is the light of the world. He is the One Who comes to drive away the darkness of sin from us and from our world. It is strange to think that a child born in a small town like Bethlehem would be the one to do this. But in the wisdom of God, this is exactly what happened! We worship our Lord Jesus because we thrill and exult in the blessings that He lavishes upon us. Not only the things that we need in this life, but more importantly, the light of salvation that shines on us. Truly, the little child who came brings the light of heaven to us. Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who brings light into our darkness. Amen.

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**WED**

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 49:1-7: Even Kings Bow Before Him

Why do kings worship Jesus? In this text, we see one of the beautiful examples of God speaking to His suffering servant, our Lord Jesus Christ. Why does it conclude with kings prostrating themselves before Jesus? After all, Isaiah also sees that this same servant is despised by the nation. Jesus is hated by the world, but at the end, even kings must bow down before the Holy One of Israel. He is the mighty Redeemer who saves not by the sword, but by shedding His blood. The disdain of the nations lead to His death on the cross for the very people who wanted to see Him dead. But His blood also redeems you from your sins. There is no one better to bow down before! Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who has suffered for me and redeemed me. Amen.

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**THU**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 3:13-17: The Fulfiler of Righteousness

Who is Jesus that He should be worshipped? In this text, we see the answer to so much of what we have been asking this week. Just who is this Jesus who the Magi came to see and who Isaiah and David spoke of? He is the beloved Son of God. He is the One Who came to fulfill all righteousness. This is why we worship Him. He is the One Who is the source of our righteousness. Jesus is the true Son of God as attested to by His Father and it is confirmed with His Resurrection as well. He is the King, the Servant, the Redeemer Who brings righteousness to us. That little child in Bethlehem begins His ministry that brings salvation to us. He is truly worthy of our worship! Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who brings and gives me righteousness. Amen.

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**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 3:23-31: Who Do You Think You Are?

Is there room for our boasting in our worship of Jesus? This text makes it clear that the answer is a resounding no! We are reminded here that we have nothing to boast about. Our sins mean that we fall far short of the glory of God. We are not worthy to be in the presence of God because of our sin. Yet, in Christ we are made worthy. In Christ, we find justification and freedom from our sins. This is an incredible gift that we receive and it is absolutely worthy of our praise and thanks. We worship Jesus not to tell Him how good we are, but to be reminded of the goodness that He has given to us completely out of His own love for us. Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who has redeemed me from my sin and justified me before You. Amen.

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**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 72: Better Than the Rest

Why is Jesus worthy of our worship? Jesus Christ is the King. He is the suffering Servant. He is the Bringer of righteousness and justification. And these things are good, but let us close this week with a reminder that He is worthy of our worship and praise too. He is the One Who delivers the needy. The One Who helps the poor and the weak. He is the One Who judges and brings prosperity. We worship Jesus because there is no other being worthier of worship than Him. There is no one else who can come close to comparing to Jesus. That is our God, our Lord, our King, our Messiah. We aren’t forced to worship Him, but we get to worship Him. Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who receives my prayers and praise. Amen.