
All the earth shall | worship You,*
and sing praises to | You, O God.
They shall sing praises | to Your name:* to Your name, | O Most High.
Make a joyful shout to God, | all the earth!* Sing out the honor of His name: make His praise | glorious.
Say to God, “How awesome | are Your works!* All the earth shall sing praises | to You.”
Come and see the | works of God:* He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.
Blessed be God, who has not turned a way my prayer, * nor His mercy | from me!

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 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 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 Power of Jesus to Create

The first sign Jesus did at Cana in Galilee manifested His divine glory. The disciples saw and believed. This week we meditate on the power of Jesus to create, sustain, and redeem the world. He turns water into wine, not as an alchemist who dabbles in elemental magic, nor as a magician who performs an illusion or trick. Jesus creates by an act of His immutable and divine will. He creates according to the power He has possessed from before the foundations of the earth were laid. In the flesh, Jesus manifests Himself as true God, the same God who creates, sustains, and redeems the world according to His gracious purpose and love.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 2:1-11 “Jesus Redeems the Holy Estate of Marriage”

The devil wants you to think that unbinding yourself from earthly fetters is the height of spiritual discipline. Against marriage he lies, “Two people bound together for life for the purpose of having babies? Hasn’t sin so wrecked it to the point that it does more harm than good?” Ignore the devil. See how Jesus blesses the wedding at Cana with wine. This means it’s both pleasing to Him and holy. Despite sin’s corruption and the devil’s attack, Jesus fights for His creation. He dies for it to buy it back with His precious blood. Praise God! Husbands and wives, take heart. Jesus blesses your marriage too. He’s bound you together. He dies for it to buy it back with His precious blood. Praise God! Husbands and wives, take heart. Jesus blesses your marriage too. He’s bound you together. He will fight for you. Dear Lord, grant that I honor the estate of marriage by faith in Jesus’ promise and a chaste life. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 14 “The Folly of the Atheist and the Generation of the Righteous”

The rational arguments against God’s existence are weak. No amount of naturalistic theorizing can ever rob creation of its design, beauty, and the conclusion that all of it must have come from God. There’s no excuse. “For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made” (Romans 1:20). And yet the atheists scoff. The wise men of our age turn their backs. Today, Jesus comforts you. All that you’ve lost in this life, on your office, whatever station God has given you, “Let love be genuine.” Love your friends who think they don’t need mercy. Making a distinction between sin and righteousness won’t be loved by this lawless world. Relationships crumble. Friends from a past life drift away. Even brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers turn their backs. Today, Jesus comforts you. All that you’ve lost in this life, on Crist’s account, you will gain back a hundredful. You will inherit eternal life. Lord, grant me courage to be steadfast in faith. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 12:6-16a “Varieties of Service, Unity in Love”

There are many stations in life. Some are born to be sons, while others are born to be daughters. Some are given the office of parent, and others the office of ruler. Some are given to preach, and others to be blessed by hearing. Whatever your office, whatever station God has given you, “Let love be genuine.” Love your parents as you’ve learned love your heavenly Father through Christ. Forgive, as you’ve been forgiven for Christ’s sake. “Bless those who persecute you.” When you are sinned against, be patient. Pray. The Lord has given you His Spirit. As Jesus lowered Himself into the pains of death to save us, so we can lower ourselves from pride and conceit to love the lowly, the children, and the aged. Grant me a heart to love, O Lord, Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 19:27-30 “An Inheritance in Heaven”

Confessing the faith sets us at odds with the people we love. Not everyone thinks that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Not everyone desires baptism, repentance, and the forgiveness of sins. No matter how kind you are, your repentance will be taken as an attack on your friends who think they don’t need mercy. Making a distinction between sin and righteousness won’t be loved by this lawless world. Relationships crumble. Friends from a past life drift away. Even brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers turn their backs. Today, Jesus comforts you. All that you’ve lost in this life, on Christ’s account, you will gain back a hundredful. You will inherit eternal life. Lord, grant me courage to be steadfast in faith. Amen.

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**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 16 “Christ’s Confidence and Joy”

As Christ hung lifelessly from the tree, no one suspected the joy set before Him. Jesus knew it. The payment of divine blood was rendered. God’s justice was satisfied. From that point forward, there would only be victory and life. Jesus’ delight is in those who will be washed by His blood through faith. They are the excellent ones. When Jesus commended Himself to the Father, He knew that His righteousness far exceeded what He Himself required. It had gained Him a kingdom, the beautiful inheritance of the gentiles who would run to their God for His mercy. Christ’s flesh dwelt securely. The tomb was but a brief rest. “For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol or let Your holy one see corruption.” I give thanks to You, O Christ, for Your resurrection. Amen.