

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 93:5, 2, 1, 3-4**

Your testimonies are | very sure;\*  
holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, for- | ever.  
Your throne is established | from of old;\*  
You are from ever- | lasting.  
The Lord reigns, He is clothed with | majesty;\*  
The Lord is | clothed with strength.  
Surely the world is es- | tablished,\*  
so that it can- | not be moved.  
The floods have lifted | up their voice;\*  
the floods lift | up their waves.  
The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many | waters,\*  
than the mighty waves | of the sea.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Revelation 21:3**  
“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through 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 **To Shepherds As They Watched By Night** TLH 103  
Martin Luther



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|---|--|
| 1. To shepherds as they watched by night<br>Appeared a host of angels bright;<br>Behold the tender Babe, they said,<br>In yonder lowly manger laid. | 4. What harm can sin and death then do?<br>The true God now abides with you.<br>Let hell and Satan rage and chafe,<br>Christ is your Brother--ye are safe. |
| 2. At Bethlehem, in David's town,<br>As Micah did of old make known;<br>'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King,<br>Who doth to all salvation bring.  | 6. Ye shall and must at last prevail;<br>God's own ye are, ye cannot fail.<br>To God forever sing your praise<br>With joy and patience all your days.      |



“The Christ-Child in the Temple”

**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: The Christ-Child in the Temple

As we bask in the glow of Christmas and the incarnation of our God, we turn our hearts to the manger of His Word. Therein we see our Savior and, with Him, profound mysteries – marvelous, terrifying, and joyful things. If we carefully read and carefully hear (as our Lord Himself instructs) our hearts will be filled with that holy fear which is the beginning of wisdom. Let us meditate, then, upon various aspects of what it means for the Incarnate One to be the “Christ-Child” and for Him to be found “in the temple.” The climax of the Holy Scriptures and the climax of this age are perfectly summarized in the verse of the week: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.” (Revelation 21:3)

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:33-40 “The Fall and Rising of Mary”

Jesus is appointed for the fall and rising of many. His works of salvation seem backwards to the world. In fact, our sinful flesh hates the Lord’s salvation. It hates the cross, hates forgiveness, and hates the righteousness of Christ. And yet Jesus came to fulfill the Law that we could not, no matter how desperately we try to do it. As a little baby, He is brought into the Temple as the Lamb of God that will one day be offered up for the sins of the entire world. With the faith of Simeon and Anna, granted to us by the Holy Spirit, we run to the cross, to Jesus, and give thanks to the Lord above for the salvation given to us through Christ. He kills and makes alive. He causes us to fall and raises us up again. *Holy Spirit, grant me the faith of Simeon and Anna. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 121 “From Where Does My Help Come?”

“My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.” My help comes from the Child who was born of the Virgin Mary. My help comes from the One Who shows me the way to the Father. My help comes from the One Who was crucified, died, and was buried with the weight of my sin. My help comes from the One Who was raised from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God. Though I might feel frightened or burdened by the ways and workings of the world, the Lord is my keeper. When I doubt the reality of the Lord’s care for me, I am encouraged by the psalmist to lift up my eyes and focus on the majestic love of my Lord demonstrated through His Son, Jesus Christ. *Father, preserve me in Your loving embrace from this time forth and evermore. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:1-7 “Adopted as Sons on Account of Jesus”

Man cannot approach God. No works can earn us a place before His throne. We are sinners who constantly break God’s law. So, God has come down “in the fullness of time” to redeem us in Jesus born of Mary. He was born under the Law to save us, so we can, as St. Paul says, “receive adoption as sons,” in baptism. As sons, we are heirs, not to a mighty and powerful politician, artist, or military commander. Rather, we are heirs of God, the Creator of heaven and earth. *O Lord, we praise You for sending Your Son to make us into sons. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11:1-5 “A Shoot from the Stump of Jesse”

The “stump of Jesse” is the line and lineage of David. From the ruins of the earthly kingdom of David, a spiritual kingdom will rise up. While Herod was ruling as king, Christ the Savior was born. Luther comments, “From a trunk nearly decayed a little twig will emerge and grow up and make holy, and it will not be prevented by heat or by rain or by all the powers of the air.” In this new spiritual kingdom, things work quite differently. The people do not come together and appoint a king; instead, the King comes first and gathers a people unto Himself. From the hopeless stump, our eternal Hope springs forth. *Holy Father, we thank You for You have made us holy through the shoot from the stump of Jesse, subjects of the Kingdom of Your Son. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-32 “The Lord Comes to His Temple”

Part of the ceremonial law included purification rights for the mother and a sacrifice to be made to redeem a mother’s firstborn son. While the holy family is in the temple with Jesus, Simeon gives a stunning prophecy about the child: that Jesus is the Lord’s salvation in the flesh. Perhaps even more amazing, especially for us, is that this child is the salvation of both Jews and Gentiles. Though we are not of the house and line of Abraham, we are blessed by his Offspring, Who has shed His blood for us, that we might receive the inheritance of Abraham—the righteousness of faith in Christ Jesus. *O Lord, grant that we may behold the salvation accomplished for us in the pure preaching of Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 2:9-16 “Suffering Glory”

We men think of glory in terms of earthly praise or fulfillment. But the author of Hebrews links glory with the suffering and death of Jesus. He is crowned with glory *because* He made propitiation for our sins and suffered the wrath of the Law to reconcile us to the Father. His suffering, His cross, is the honor and glory of Jesus. We Christians need to ponder this. Faithfulness to God likely may cause us to suffer in this world. A servant is not greater than his Master. But because He has suffered for us, our crosses and even our deaths are not in vain. There is a hidden glory there, for they too end in resurrection and the glory of the world to come. *Jesus, strengthen me for the good confession of Your Name. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111 “The Dwelling Place of God is with Man”

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Without fear of the Lord there can be no wisdom, ergo the darkness and foolishness all around us. How does one come to fear the Lord? The answer is quite simple. Study His works (v. 2). Remember His works (v. 4). See the power of His works (v. 6). Praise. Marvel at what He has made. Marvel at history. Marvel at His Word. Marvel that He is mindful of man. Marvel that He would become as we, that we might become as He. Marvel that the God of billions of galaxies is the God of the manger and cross, the altar and font. Marvel that He has made Himself known to you and made you one with Him, such that He is our temple (Jn. 2:19) and we are His (1 Cor. 3:16) – forever. *Unite my heart to fear your name, O Lord. Amen.*

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