

Devotional Guide | Week of March 23rd, 2020



SCRIPTURE READING

Read Isaiah 40.9-28



PRAYER OF ADORATION

Great and mighty Creator,
we bless You because You have made us capable of knowing You,
the author of all being, of resembling You, the perfection of all
excellency,
of enjoying You, the source of all happiness.
Your might is infinite.
Your love is boundless.
Your grace is limitless.
Your saving name is glorious.
Triune God, who commands the universe, allow us to behold You in
these next moments that you may receive all glory, honor, and
praise of which you are deserving.



RECOMMENDED SONG

["Behold Our God"](#)

music & lyrics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx9-0v9m2Sg>



SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Read Luke 1:26-38

This passage focuses on two things:

1) The mighty work of God in the miraculous virgin conception. 2) It declares the coming baby as the promised successor to the throne of David.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy (carrying John the Baptist), God sends the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to a virgin named Mary, who is engaged to Joseph. His greeting surprises and troubles her: "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" (v. 28). The angel allays Mary's fears by telling her that God is giving her special grace; she will conceive and bear a son, which she is to name Jesus (meaning "Yahweh saves"). Gabriel explains that the child "will be called the Son of the Most High" and rule forever as a Davidic king (vv. 32–33).

Mary asks how this is possible, since she has not known a man sexually, and Gabriel explains that the child's conception will be a miracle of God the Holy Spirit. He who guarded and guided the Israelites in pillars of cloud and fire in the wilderness and whose glory cloud overshadowed the tabernacle will overshadow her, and by his power her child will be the holy Son of God (v. 35)! God is intervening in human history to bring forth the promised everlasting King and his kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12–16). As evidence of God's ability to do the impossible, the angel cites Elizabeth, formerly barren, who is six months pregnant. Mary declares herself God's servant and submits to his will, at which point Gabriel leaves her (Luke 1:36–38).

Theology for Life—Jesus’ miraculous conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary underscores the fact that he is God. Jesus’ conception is the work of God alone, showing that human beings cannot save themselves but must be saved by him whose name means “Yahweh saves.”



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What does this passage teach us about God?

What does this passage teach us about the plan of God?

Would we feel ‘highly favored’ (1:28) or ‘highly fearful’ if God had some special task for us? Are we willing to do whatever he asks?

What does this passage teach us about the Trinity?



RECOMMENDED SONG

“Holy Spirit”

music & lyrics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nbMfLQd2P4>



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Father in Heaven,
We have sinned times without number. We are guilty of pride and unbelief.

We have assumed that our comforts and needs have been supplied by our might and our determination instead of acknowledging that every good and perfect gift comes from your gracious hand. We confess an over inflated view of ourselves.

We have assumed our safety comes from our wisdom and our preparations instead of your sustaining and watchful care. We confess a foolish conceit.

We have assumed that you have accepted us because we are good or because we are intent on following You instead of acknowledging that we can only be accepted on the sole basis of your beloved Son, Jesus. We confess a defiant pride.

We take time to confess to you now the specific ways this has been expressed in our lives over the last week (take time to silently confess those things to the LORD).

Forgive us of our arrogance and humble us to recognize your sovereign greatness.

We acknowledge that while we are full of sin, You have promised that You are faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. By faith, we receive that news joyfully. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Savior



RECOMMENDED SONG

["He will hold me fast"](#)

music & lyrics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFW6BFXaWQ>



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

- Pray for those in our community infected with COVID-19.
- Pray for those on the front lines of our community testing for & caring for those with COVID-19.
- Pray that our LORD would open our eyes for opportunities to love, serve, and share the hope we have in Christ in this unprecedented time.
- Pray for our partner congregations who are facing many of the same logistical challenges as us, and yet are still seeking to find ways to shepherd their congregations effectively while continuing to administer the gospel to those around them. This week, please pray specifically for our friends at Kingdom Outpost in Clay, NY.

**May the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.
Romans 15.13**



Words to Live By

Psalm 119:105

*[105] Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. (ESV)*