

Space for God God With Us

PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago?
You are my witnesses—is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock—not one!”
Isaiah 44:8
Immanuel, God with us.

WORSHIP

In that day the people will proclaim,
“This is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the Lord, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!” Isaiah 25:9
Immanuel, God with us.

CONFESSION

This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Romans 13:11-12
Help us, O God of our salvation! Help us for the glory of your name. Save us and forgive our sins for the honor of your name. Psalm 79:9
Immanuel, God with us.

MEDITATION – Matthew 1:18-25*

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.
As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:
“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”
When Joseph woke up, he did as

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God’s healing and renewal.

the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.
But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

ANCHORING PRAYER

Immanuel, You are with me.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

*When was I aware of God’s presence in my daily activities?
What difficult task has God asked me to accept as part of His will me?*

WISDOM

Moses named the place Massah which means “test” and Meribah which means “arguing” because the people of Israel argued with Moses and tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord here with us or not?”
Exodus 17:7

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.”
Deuteronomy 31:8

“By the light of nature we see God as a God above us, by the light of the law we see Him as a God against us, but by the light of the gospel we see Him as Emmanuel, God with us.”
–Matthew Henry

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

**May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors;
may he never leave us or abandon us.**
“The Lord lives! Praise to my Rock!
May God, the Rock of my salvation, be exalted!
1 Kings 8:57, 2 Samuel 22:47
Immanuel, You are with us. Amen.

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.
Seek the Holy Spirit’s filling and guidance.
Speak and act from a listening heart.
Actively serve in community with others.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year A
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