



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Daily Devotion at Zion + January 2023 AD + **Epiphany Season***

All Things

If you think it, pray it. There's no point leaving it out.

As some have observed, the mere fact that people have thoughts suggests that there is, for all of us, an ever-present listener to our mind. Why else do we “communicate with ourselves”? But whether or not that argument convinces anyone, the Scriptures are clear: God knows our thoughts and our hearts as well as our deeds.

So if you think it, you might as well pray it. He knows.

The point is: take it all to God. Everything. The hopes, the dreams, the insecurities, the anger, the hate, the sorrow, and even the random thoughts of the day. Not only are you hiding nothing by leaving it out, but by including it, you are confirming and confessing an important truth: God has come to fill all of your life, and there is no need to “clean yourself up” for Him.

We see this truth already in the infant Jesus as He draws everyone to His worship, from angels to stars to wise men to shepherds to whatever animals were around the manger. He therefore receives all of you, too: from your joy to your sorrow, from your anger to your sin to your fears and hopes. Your life finds its origin and fulfillment in this Lord, and our prayer and devotion rest in that promise.

About the Cover Art

In “African Nativity” by Azaria Mbatha, one notices immediately how *close* nature is. Elephant, wildebeest, and other animals crowd the holy family, as vines and leaves grow up all around them. Even the star seems closer than in many nativities. This artistic crowding of our Lord testifies to His mission, both then and now: to draw all things to Himself, just as He has drawn near to all.

Daily Readings for the Week of the Name of Jesus (January 1)

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| S Genesis 17:1-12a, 15-16
Colossians 2:6-12
John 16:23b-30 | Th Joshua 1:1-9
Hebrews 11:32—12:2
John 15:1-16 |
| M Genesis 12:1-7
Hebrews 11:1-12
John 6:35-42, 48-51 | F Isaiah 52:7-10
Revelation 21:22-27
Matthew 12:14-21 |
| T Genesis 28:10-22
Hebrews 11:13-22
John 10:7-17 | Sa Isaiah 52:3-6
Revelation 2:1-7
John 2:1-11 |
| W Exodus 3:1-15
Hebrews 11:23-31
John 14:6-14 | |

These readings correspond to pages 163—193 in Volume I of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of the Baptism of Our Lord (January 8)

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| S Isaiah 40:1-11
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-7, 19-20, 29-34 | Th Isaiah 41:17-29
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 2:1-12 |
| M Isaiah 40:12-24
Ephesians 1:1-14
Mark 1:1-13 | F Isaiah 42:1-17
Ephesians 3:1-13
Mark 2:13-22 |
| T Isaiah 40:25-31
Ephesians 1:15-23
Mark 1:14-28 | Sa Isaiah 42:18-25; 43:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21
Mark 2:23—3:6 |
| W Isaiah 41:1-16
Ephesians 2:1-10
Mark 1:29-45 | |

These readings correspond to pages 213—243 in Volume I of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 2 (January 15)

S Isaiah 43:14—44:5
Hebrews 6:17—7:10
John 4:27-42

Th Isaiah 45:5-17
Ephesians 5:15-33
Mark 4:21-34

M Isaiah 44:6-8, 21-23
Ephesians 4:1-16
Mark 3:7-19a

F Isaiah 45:18-25
Ephesians 6:1-9
Mark 4:35-41

T Isaiah 44:9-20
Ephesians 4:17-32
Mark 3:19b-35

Sa Isaiah 46:1-13
Ephesians 6:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

W Isaiah 44:24—45:7
Ephesians 5:1-14
Mark 4:1-20

These readings correspond to pages 248—281 in Volume I of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 3 (January 22)

S Isaiah 47:1-15
Hebrews 10:19-31
John 5:2-18

Th Isaiah 49:13-26
Galatians 3:1-14
Mark 6:30-46

M Isaiah 48:1-11
Galatians 1:1-17
Mark 5:21-43

F Isaiah 50:1-11
Galatians 3:15-22
Mark 6:47-56

T Isaiah 48:12-22
Galatians 1:18—2:10
Mark 6:1-13

Sa Isaiah 51:1-8
Galatians 3:23-29
Mark 7:1-23

W Isaiah 49:1-12
Galatians 2:11-21
Mark 6:13-29

These readings correspond to pages 282—316 in Volume I of For All the Saints.