

Sunday Before Theophany

January 5, 2025



Coloring Icons



2 Timothy

4:5-8

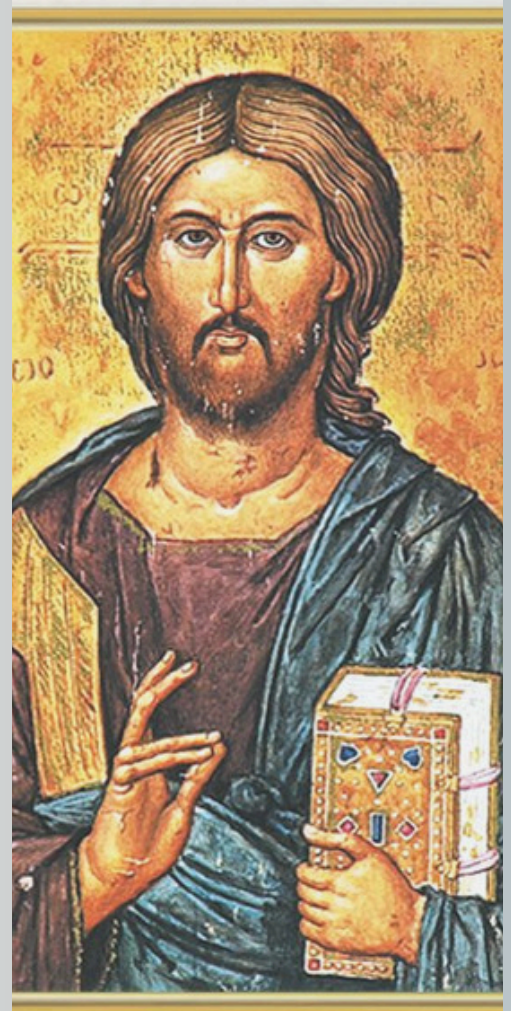
5 AS FOR YOU, ALWAYS BE SOBER. ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL, AND CARRY OUT YOUR MINISTRY TO THE FULLEST EXTENT. 6 AS FOR ME, I AM ALREADY BEING Poured OUT AS A LIBATION, AND THE TIME HAS COME FOR MY DEPARTURE. 7 I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT; I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE; I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH. 8 NOW WAITING FOR ME IS THE CROWN[C] OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, WILL AWARD TO ME ON THAT DAY—AND NOT ONLY TO ME, BUT TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE EAGERLY LONGED FOR HIS APPEARANCE.

**As for you, always be sober.
Endure hardships, do the work
of preaching the gospel, and
carry out your ministry to the
fullest extent**

Luke 1: 1-18

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias[b] was tetrarch of Abilene, **2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,[c] the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. **3** He journeyed throughout the entire region of the Jordan valley, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, **4** as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths **5** Every valley shall be filled in, and every mountain and hill shall be leveled; the winding roads shall be straightened and the rough paths made smooth, **6** and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.’ ” **7** He admonished the crowds who came out to be baptized by him



r: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Produce good fruits as proof of your repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. **9** Even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 When the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” **11** he said to them in reply, “Anyone who has two coats must share with the person who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” **12** Even tax collectors were coming to him to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” **13** He answered them, “Cease collecting more than the amount prescribed.” **14** Some soldiers also asked him, “What about us? What should we do?” He replied, “Do not extort money from anyone, do not falsely accuse or threaten anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.”

15 As the people began to experience a feeling of expectancy, they all wondered in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. **16** John answered, telling them all: “I baptize you with water, but there is one coming who is more powerful than I am. I am not worthy to loosen the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” **18** And with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Caught you Listening

This Gospel highlights how John the Baptist told people to behave. You might recognize what he says to do – everything from the Ten Commandments!

Draw a line from John's teaching to the actions we should take.

Collect no more than is appointed you.

Rob no one by violence.

He who has food, _____ with him who has none.

Rob no one by false accusation.

He who has two coats, _____ with him who has none.

_____ with your wages.

Share

Don't lie

Don't cheat

Be content

Don't bully

Luke 3: 1-18

G O O D H P V U M R Z K E O N
E W C V R W B M L F T V R Z H
W Z G B I C E T J D M L T L D
A I D B W P T D R D W Y H G Z
Z N L Q F A E T X E U X R V S
J I R D J I G R G K E O E K L
C M O L E B R E S E K S S W W
F A O N R R O E S V F X H A Z
T B T X D F N O Y L G Q I T Y
M R Q Z K G C E H A N D N E F
K A X G D U N H S I L H G R R
H H P G L W B B P S A N Q A U
O A A P E O P L E L Z A Z Y I
T M N H O L Y S P I R I T O T
W B A P T I Z E Q Q W V Q Z A

wilderness

holy spirit

threshing

fruit

vipers

baptize

Abraham

fire

people

trees

wages

root

water

hand

good

Prayer before Communion

O LORD, I BELIEVE AND PROFESS THAT YOU ARE TRULY CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, WHO CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS OF WHOM I AM THE FIRST.

ACCEPT ME TODAY AS A PARTAKER OF YOUR MYSTICAL SUPPER, O SON OF GOD, FOR I WILL NOT REVEAL YOUR MYSTERY TO YOUR ENEMIES, NOR WILL I GIVE YOU A KISS AS DID JUDAS, BUT LIKE THE THIEF I PROFESS YOU: REMEMBER ME, O LORD, WHEN YOU COME IN YOUR KINGDOM.

REMEMBER ME, O MASTER, WHEN YOU COME IN YOUR KINGDOM.

REMEMBER ME, O HOLY ONE, WHEN YOU COME IN YOUR KINGDOM.

MAY THE PARTAKING OF YOUR HOLY MYSTERIES, O LORD, BE NOT FOR MY JUDGMENT OR CONDEMNATION BUT FOR THE HEALING OF SOUL AND BODY.

O LORD, I ALSO BELIEVE AND PROFESS THAT THIS, WHICH I AM ABOUT TO RECEIVE, IS TRULY YOUR MOST PRECIOUS BODY AND YOUR LIFE-GIVING BLOOD, WHICH, I PRAY, MAKE ME WORTHY TO RECEIVE FOR THE REMISSION OF ALL MY SINS AND FOR LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN. O GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME, A SINNER. O GOD, CLEANSE ME OF MY SINS AND HAVE MERCY ON ME. O LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR I HAVE SINNED WITHOUT NUMBER.

Prayer for Vocations

**O GOD, GREAT IN MIGHT AND INSCRUTABLE IN WISDOM, MARVELOUS IN COUNSEL ABOVE THE SONS OF MEN, FATHER OF ALL PERFECT GIFTS: YOU THE SAME LORD, ENLIGHTEN WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT THE HEARTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND CALL THEM TO FOLLOW YOUR ONLY BEGOTTEN SON AND OUR SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST, THE GOOD SHEPHERD! GIVE THEM THE COURAGE AND GENEROSITY NECESSARY TO OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES TO THEIR VOCATION, FOR YOU COMPLETE WHAT IS LACKING! GIVE TO THE PARENTS THAT FAITH, LOVE AND SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE WHICH WILL INSPIRE THEM TO OFFER THEIR CHILDREN TO YOUR SERVICE AND REJOICE WHENEVER ONE OF THEIR CHILDREN IS CALLED TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN A SPECIAL WAY OF PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS CONSECRATION. WE IMPLORE YOU THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF THE MOST PURE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY!
AMEN!**