



“The Lord Has Come As Long Promised”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm 85:1-2, 6, 8**

Rejoice in the Lord / always.*
 Again will I / say, rejoice!
 Let your gentleness be known to / all men.*
 The Lord / is at hand.
 Lord, You have been favourable / to Your land:*
 You have brought back the captivity of / Jacob.
 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your / people;*
 You have covered / all their sin.
 Will You not revive / us again,*
 that Your people may re- / joice in You?
 I will hear what God the / Lord will speak,*
 for He will speak peace to His / people.

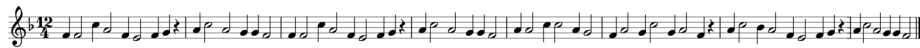
6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 98:1**
 “Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Lord, we implore You, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You now live and reign with the Father 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 **Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Harken**
 TLH 75, LSB 345
 Valentin Thilo, Jr.



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| <p>1. Ye sons of men, oh, hearken:
 Your heart and mind prepare,
 To hail the almighty Savior,
 O sinners, be your care.
 He who of grace alone
 Our Life and Light was given,
 The promised Lord from heaven,
 Unto our world is shown.</p> | <p>4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus,
 Turn not from me aside,
 And grant that I receive Thee
 This blessed Advent-tide.
 From stall and manger low
 Come Thou to dwell within me;
 Loud praises will I sing Thee
 And forth glory show.</p> |
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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 Lord Has Come As Long Promised**

The Third Sunday in Advent is known as Gaudete, which is Latin for, “rejoice.” Yet, how can we rejoice when this week’s passages confront us with the offensiveness of Jesus, restlessness due to distress, and the poverty of our sinful condition? Our rejoicing is found in this truth - the Lord has come as long promised. Taking on human flesh, He came into a world full of sin and death to save us. So, we rejoice knowing that all sorrows are temporary. As night gives way to day and winter to spring, for Christ’s sake, sadness gives way to joy, sin to forgiveness, death to resurrection.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 11:2-10 – The Offensive Jesus**

What’s so offensive about Jesus? Some are offended by Him because of His Words of Law. Herod Antipas didn’t like being called to repentance for his affair. So, he threw John in prison. Yet, more offensive than the Law is the Gospel, which is Jesus dying to save us spiritually blind, lame, deaf sinners from our death. “The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). So, let us remain unashamed of Christ and His Gospel, for “blessed is he who is not offended because of Christ” (Matt. 11:6). *O Lord, give me strength to boldly confess your saving Word. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 4 – Sleep in Peace**

After a long day, we long to lay down in our beds and sleep. Yet, how difficult it can be when the day still weighs upon us. The mind continues to work through events to bring peace of mind. Yet, only true lasting peace comes from the Lord, our righteousness. Are you distressed? Call upon the Lord, and He will hear you. Have you been shamed for your faith? Know that He has set apart His faithful ones in the waters of Holy Baptism. So, go to bed at once and in good cheer. The LORD your God gives you the peace to sleep. *O Lord, be gracious to me and hear my prayer. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 4:1-5 – Servants and Stewards**

How should you view your pastor? St. Paul says, “...as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” Pastors are servants, or literally, slaves of Christ. They’re not called to be people pleasers because they are accountable to Him. They are to serve Him by being faithful to His Word. Every pastor is also a steward of the mysteries of God, that is God’s gifts of Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Holy Supper. These are the sacred mysteries of salvation, which nourish and care for you in every spiritual need. *O Lord, bless all those who proclaim Your truth that we may be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Malachi 3:1-6 – The Lord Doesn’t Change**

“The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). We cannot do anything to change this punishment from the Lord because He does not change (Mal. 3:1). Yet, the Lord’s unchanging punishment for sin does not interfere with His compassion for us sinners. The Lord’s mercy endures forever. This unchanging mercy is based solely upon the all-sufficient merit of Christ. Because of Him, we are not consumed. We are not destroyed. Instead, He has rescued us from sin and its punishment of death, and has delivered us over to His kingdom of life. *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 1:39-56 – Exalted by God**

The *Magnificat* of Mary has been sung by the faithful throughout the centuries. It declares every person to be a beggar before God. At the same time it reveals God’s mercy and lovingkindness toward us sinners. As we cannot exalt ourselves out of the poverty of our sinful condition, the Lord comes down from heaven to help us of humble estate. In the virgin’s womb, God takes on flesh and blood to redeem flesh and blood. So, while the Lord cast down those who reject Him in prideful unbelief, He exults the lowly who trust in Him. *O Lord, may my soul always magnify You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 1:16-25 – The Powerful Gospel**

St. Paul writes that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation. Yet, what is so powerful about the Gospel that it lays hold of sinners and saves us from sin, the condemnation of the Law, eternal death, and the power of Satan? The answer is Jesus. Jesus is the saving content of the Gospel because He alone perfectly fulfilled the Law and suffered God’s wrath for sin. Apart from the preaching of Jesus, there is no power or salvation. Only through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus are sinners called to faith and declared righteous as a free gift of God’s grace. *O Lord, let us not be ashamed of Your Gospel, for it is Your power for salvation. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 98 – Sing to the Lord a New Song**

Singing is central to our lives as Christians. Through words set to music, we praise God, find comfort, and confess. So, what is this new song that we are to sing? It is the new song of God’s salvation from sin and death through Christ. In His crucifixion and resurrection, “The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.” The righteousness and salvation given to us for Christ’s sake, apart from our works, is worth singing about not just today, but every day. *O Lord, we praise You for You have done marvelous things. Amen.*