



“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 **1 Peter 2:9**

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

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.



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.

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.

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of December 13-19, 2020

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord Has Come As Long Promised

Our Lord comes to us. He comes at a time when He may be found. As He came humbly to the Virgin Mary, born in a small stable, wrapped in human flesh, so He comes now, wrapped in His own Word, borne to us in His sacraments. Let all who hear His Word take heart and rejoice at His reappearing! On us His light has shined! On us His mercy has been spread out like a garment, forgiving our sins and cleansing us. May we walk ever by His light and ever keep His Word until His reappearing.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:2-10 Light in the Darkness

Have you ever sat in a darkened, pitch-black room? If you try to move at all, you undoubtedly run into obstacles; you grope around blindly, but once the light comes on, everything becomes clear. So it is for us who know Jesus, the Light of the world. Without Him, we would be like people who bumble around in the dark, not knowing where we go. We would be deaf, mute, lame, dead. But with Him we hear, we speak, we run, we live! We cast off the bumbling works of darkness and live as children of the day, in the mercy, the grace, the forgiveness of Christ. *Light of the World, bless and keep us who walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4 In His Peace I Lie Down and Sleep

Fear of the dark is perfectly normal for children, sometimes for adults, too! We don't know what we can't see, and we fear what we don't know. Yet with the Lord we can rest assured knowing that we both lie down and sleep in peace, for He alone makes us dwell in safety. In Him alone is our trust. The light of His face shines upon us, so that by Him we need not fear anything. The Lord blesses us and keeps us; the Lord makes His face to shine upon us and is gracious unto us; the Lord lifts up His countenance upon us and give us peace. We rest in the peace of the Lord. *O Lord, graciously visit us and lighten the darkness that lies around us. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 The Mysteries of God

Many things remain shrouded in the dark in our lives; we sometimes fear that secret motivations or purposes of friends, neighbors, and family lie just beyond our reach. This often leads to quarrels and arguments. Where the darkness lingers, strife lies close at hand. Yet our Lord brings to us His own light. He sheds the light of His grace and mercy on our hearts and urges us to forgo the ways of darkness. He gives us His grace and His Light by His own mysteries, that is, through His Word and Sacraments. Where the Body of Christ gathers around these mysteries, there the Light of Christ shines into the darkness, banishing it. *Lord, be our constant companion on the way, kindle our hearts, and awake hope among us, that we may recognize You as You are revealed in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Malachi 3:1-6 The Day of the Lord

"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near," Isaiah says. This Advent we remember that our Lord came to us, wrapped in swaddling clothes for the salvation of mankind. He continues to come to us, wrapped in bread and wine, in His own Word. Those who have ears, let them hear. Yet there will be a day when He will come openly for the judgment of the nations. On that day, there will be woe to those who scorned the Lord, who here despised His Holy Word. But all who are found in Christ, sealed by baptism, fed by His Supper, with ears for His Word will rejoice at His appearing! *Lord Jesus, come quickly, that we may be saved by Your glorious reappearing! Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56 Bearer of the Word

How does our Lord come to us? He comes to us, born in the womb of a lowly virgin. This humble handmaiden was made the Bearer of the Word Incarnate, and so she rightly sings, "my soul magnifies the Lord!" The Song of Mary is one that each and every one of us can keep close to our heart. As our Lord declares, "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it." So, even you become a bearer of the Word. So, you in hearing and keeping God's Word, by believing in Him, you, too, can sing alongside Mary that God has done great things for me! Holy is His Name! *O Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 1:16-25 The Righteousness of God

The Righteousness of God is not found in this darkened world. It is not even found in the Law of God, which by the darkened heart of mankind can be misconstrued. The Righteousness of God is only revealed from faith for faith in the Gospel of God, that message that Jesus Christ has taken all your sins upon Himself and died to them, raising you to new life on high. This is the power of God. This is the message that brings to us His righteous. So, the righteous live by faith, faith that God's Word is true, that He and He alone makes us righteous. *O Lord, encourage us in Your Gospel, strengthen our faith, and make us steadfast and firm, ever trusting You, our Righteousness. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 98 O Sing to the Lord!

A people who once sat in darkness have seen a great light; that light is the very Righteousness of God, proclaimed to us in the Gospel. The Lord is our Righteousness. He has revealed His Righteousness in the sight of the nations! He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness! We have seen the Righteousness of God and have received His great salvation! For this we will ever sing songs of joy and praise; let all the world praise the name of Him who reigns on high, of Him who called us into His marvelous light! *Merciful Father, enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ. May His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Amen.*

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