

“The Lord is Yet to Come Again”



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 20:29, 30; 62:11; Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17**

Daughter of | Zion,\*  
 behold, surely your salvation is | coming.  
 The Lord will cause His glorious voice | to be heard,\*  
 and you shall have glad- | ness of heart. (Isaiah 20:29, 30; 62:11)  
 Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,\*  
 You who lead Jacob | like a flock.  
 Restore | us, O God:\*  
 cause Your face to shine, and we | shall be saved!  
 Return, we beseech You, O | God of Hosts,\*  
 look down from heav- | en and see.  
 Let Your hand be upon the Man of Your | right hand,\*  
 upon the Son of Man whom You made strong | for Yourself.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 91:1-2**

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son that by His coming we may be given to serve You with cleansed minds; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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  
**O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee**

TLH 58, LSB 334  
 Paul Gerhardt



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| <p>1. Let us ever walk with Jesus<br/>                 Follow His example pure,<br/>                 Flee the world, which would deceive us<br/>                 And to sin our souls allure.<br/>                 Ever in His footsteps treading,<br/>                 Body here, yet soul above,<br/>                 Full of faith and hope and love,<br/>                 Let us do the Father's bidding.<br/>                 Faithful Lord, abide with me;<br/>                 Savior, lead, I follow Thee.</p> | <p>We shall reap with heavenly joy;<br/>                 And the fears that now annoy<br/>                 Shall be laughter on the morrow.<br/>                 Christ, I suffer here with Thee;<br/>                 There, oh, share Thy joy with me!</p>   |
| <p>2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,<br/>                 To His image, e'er conform;<br/>                 Heaven's glory soon will please us,<br/>                 Sunshine follow on the storm.<br/>                 Though we sow in tears of sorrow,</p>   | <p>4. Let us gladly live with Jesus;<br/>                 Since He's risen from the dead,<br/>                 Death and grave must soon release us.<br/>                 Jesus, Thou art now our Head,<br/>                 We are truly Thine own members;<br/>                 Where Thou livest, there live we.<br/>                 Take and own us constantly,<br/>                 Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.<br/>                 Jesus, here I live to Thee,<br/>                 Also there eternally.</p> |

**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 is Yet to Come Again**

The Lord is yet to come again. We know it's going to happen because He fulfills His promises. The Prophetic Advent had the prophets proclaim that Christ would come and would save His people from their sins. In His Incarnational Advent, God took on human flesh in the womb of Mary, lived our human life, died our human death, was raised again in the flesh and is ascended into the heavens, still in the flesh. He comes to us even to this day, Advents with us, Sacramentally. In Word and water and bread and wine, these are the places where Jesus has promised He will come to grant us the gifts of the cross and the assurance of the resurrection. And so, if He has kept all of those promises, surely He will keep His promise to come again.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 21:25-36—Christ Will Come Again**

Our Lord has promised that He will return. Good! We pray that it is soon. He promised that there will be signs for us, perpetual ones in the heavens and the constant distress of the nations. It has all been foretold, so you may know. Do not be afraid. Nor should you worry incessantly about each new day's seemingly new troubles. All of these things are signs of Christ's return. So be about the things of the Church, for that is the warning that our Lord is giving us. Amidst all of the signs and wonders promising that Christ will come again one day, be where Christ has promised to be today. Receive Him in Word and be washed by Him in baptism and fed by Him with His Supper. For these are the ways that He has promised to sustain you until the day in which He comes again. *Coming Messiah, sustain us in Your Church as we await the Day of Your coming. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 42—Receiving In Times Of Need**

The sons of Korah know what it is like to be an afflicted sinner within the Church. They know where to go, what to hear, what to receive, even when they don't feel like it. With a fallen down soul and a broken spirit they wonder, "Where are you, Lord? Why do my enemies afflict me?" Maybe you know what that's like. But that's the beauty of our God and of His salvation for us: it isn't contingent upon how we feel or about what our subjective situation seems to be. In fact, despite all those things, God still remains faithful to us and grants to us that which will sustain us through these temporal trials. The promise of our God is not that He would necessarily take these things away from us in an earthly way, but that because of Christ's cross, we have the victory over them all even if they kill us. *My soul thirsts for You, God. Grant me Your salvation. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 15:4-13—Our Lord Sustains us**

Christ came as a servant, the greatest of all servants, both to the Jews and the Gentiles. That is to say, Christ is a servant to all. As we wait for Christ's coming again in glory, the flesh can become weary, wondering if we have the strength to endure to the end. So we have the Word, incarnate and spoken and written down for our edification. It is that Word that encourages us and grants us the endurance to abide in Him until the end. Don't look to your own strength, that will surely fail. Instead, receive from God the forgiveness of sins and the promise of salvation that will allow you to live in harmony with one another and in accord with Christ Jesus; so that we may glorify Him, no matter our ills, until the great day of His coming. *God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Micah 4:1-7—Swords Into Plowshares**

We all think that perpetual temporal peace is something that can be obtained. It can't. Nation will always rage against nation, brother against brother, son against father. That is the way of the sinner and there is nothing that this fallen down, broken world can do about it. The Lord's promise is that on that day, the eschatological Last Day, the day in which every knee shall bow and tongue confess, on that day the swords will be beaten into plowshares. Until that day we strive toward peace, a peace that can only come through Christ and His cross, yet we are not overwhelmed when we do not achieve it. For that day will come. Christ has promised as much. He will draw all nations to His holy mountain, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever. *Lord, reign over us in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 1:26-35—The Incarnation**

God comes to His people. He had done that in the Old Testament, as a veil of smoke, hidden behind curtains. Here we have our God come to His people as one of them. There is no veil any longer. It is not as if God is hiding behind the mask of a man, God has become man. If you want to see God then look to Jesus. And in the conception of our Lord within the womb of Mary we can see that He has become one of us in every way. The weakness of the cross is foreshadowed by the weakness of dot-sized Jesus floating in Mary's womb as the Holy Spirit overshadows her. It's the promise of the prophets come true in the flesh so that we might magnify the Lord and our spirits might rejoice in God our Savior. And in that way, we are all like Mary. For God has found favor in us through His Son. *Incarnate Jesus, grant us Your salvation today and always. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 2:1-16—A Law Written, A Gospel Revealed**

There is a major difference between God's Law and His Gospel: His Law is given in such a way that even the Gentile, ignorant of the Word, knows it. The Law is written on our hearts. It's that pesky little conscience within us that nags and gnaws and tells us that the things we do are evil. We are all without excuse, rightly judged by God when we sin against our neighbor and sin against Him. Our consciences are pricked by our deeds. But the Gospel is something that must be revealed. The Gospel makes no sense, it is the opposite of rational. For the Gospel speaks of a God in the flesh who dies with our sins placed upon Him. And that must be proclaimed to us through the Word, because our conscience could never believe such a thing on its own. *Gracious God, may the riches of Your kindness, forbearance, and patience lead us to repentance. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 91—An Advent Prayer**

*Lord, my refuge and my fortress, may I forever abide in Your shadow and dwell in Your shelter. Deliver me from the snare of all of my enemies. Hide me away as a hen covers her brood with her wings. Shelter and shield me so that I may not fear the terror of night or the destruction seen during the day. May vengeance be Yours and Yours alone, and may I trust in this truth that You are my dwelling place. In You, no eternal evil can befall me. As Your Son trampled the head of the Great Serpent, as His heel was nailed to the cross, so too do I now have the victory over this wicked foe, this lion who seeks to destroy me. May I call to You in the day of trouble. Rescue me for the sake of Your Son, that I may hold fast to You in love, knowing that it is Your name alone that saves. Be with me in trouble. Rescue me and show me Your salvation in Christ Jesus my Lord. Amen.*

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