

**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 **Luke 21:33**  
“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

**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. O Lord, how shall I meet Thee,<br/>How welcome Thee aright?<br/>Thy people long to greet Thee,<br/>My Hope, my heart's Delight!<br/>O kindle, Lord, most holy,<br/>Thy lamp within my breast<br/>To do in spirit lowly<br/>All that may please Thee best.</p> | <p>2. Love caused Thy incarnation,<br/>Love brought Thee down to me;<br/>Thy thirst for my salvation<br/>Procured my liberty.<br/>O love beyond all telling,<br/>That led Thee to embrace,<br/>In love all love excelling,<br/>Our lost and fallen race!</p> |
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“The Lord Is Yet to Come Again”

**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 10-16, 2017

### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord Is Yet to Come Again

During the season of Advent we don't just consider the First Coming of Jesus but we also consider the Second Coming. The first coming was promised of old and it was fulfilled when the angel Gabriel visited Mary and she conceived a son. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, lived, died, and rose from the dead. Just as we know the first coming was promised and then fulfilled, our certainty of the Second Coming of Jesus is built upon the promise that He will come again. We know it will happen just as the first coming happened. We abide in this hope.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:25-36 The coming of Christ

Jesus says that we should watch ourselves lest our hearts be weighed down with the cares of this life. There are certainly plenty of cares of life in this season of the year. It is easy to allow them to cause anxiousness and worry. There is a lot to do and not much time to do it and the energy levels are waning. The answer to this is that you "stay awake at all times, praying that you may have the strength." Jesus has come into the world and will come again so that you need not be weighed down. For the burden of Jesus is light and He gives you the strength to endure the cares of this life. *Dear Jesus, lift me up that I may not be weighed down by the cares of this life. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 42 A Thirsty Soul

A soul that is cast down and in turmoil indicates intense grief, heartache or sin. There could be any number of specific reasons why your soul is in turmoil, but it will still yearn for God. What quenches your soul and lifts it up is the "living God" (v. 2). The life of the resurrected Lord is the answer to your distress. Even if you find yourself in the pit of despair, know that Jesus was raised from the dead and gives His resurrection life to you so that you may be lifted up by His gracious hand. *Living God, lift me up from my despair that I may praise You all my days. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:4-13 Joy and Peace in Believing

The world's Christmas season begins even before Thanksgiving. The world's version of Christmas is a lot different than the Church's. The world says that joy and peace come from giving gifts, being surrounded by family, beautiful decorations, or something like that. As Christians we know that true joy and peace comes from believing in Jesus Christ. By faith in Him, He delivers to you joy and peace. It is a joy that is insurmountable and a peace that is beyond understanding. That is a version of Christmas that is worthwhile. *Dear God, give me joy and peace in my faith toward You. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: Micah 4:1-7 Coming to the house of the Lord

We come to the house of the Lord that He may teach us His ways. This is the way of holiness that isn't taught by the world. The world would teach us the way of destruction so we must hear of God's way in the house of the Lord, where Jesus is present in His Word and Sacrament. This path of holiness is hard and narrow but God will guide you and the way becomes easier as you continue to receive God's mercy anew each and every day. *Almighty God, bring me to Your house that I may be taught Your ways. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-35 Favored one?

You can have a favorite pizza topping or type of music, but parents aren't supposed to have favorite children. They are to love each child equally. When the angel Gabriel says that Mary is the favored one and she has found favor with God this isn't because of who she is or what she has done, but rather because of her faith in God. You are favored by God and you have found favor with God because your faith abides in Jesus Christ. *Father, thank You for calling me Your favored one by virtue of the faith given to me by the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 2:1-16 Secret Sins, Wrath, and Fury

The Christian seeks after holiness but in order to get it by human means, hiding sins is the way to go. If you commit your sins in secret or hide them from others then you will look like how a Christian is "supposed" to look. However, true holiness isn't possible by the works of man. The works of man will be those secret and hidden sins that bring about the wrath and fury of God. Holiness is a gift from God that will in turn remove God's wrath and fury from you. God forgives the secret sins and guides you into the way of holiness. *Heavenly Father, forgive me and give me the righteousness of Your Son. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 91 The Coming of the Lord is Your Protection

When the deceitfulness of the world, the cares of your life, the pains of sin, and the darkness overwhelms you this beautiful Psalm reminds you that you are not alone. The Lord is your refuge and fortress. He is the one who is trustworthy, will deliver you, and cover you from harm so that the terrors of the night will not harm you. Even if it seems as if the Lord has lost, still you have won. Suffering brings you closer to the Lord for you are united with your God who suffers in your place. Trust in the Lord and depend on him in your times of strife. *Merciful Lord, defend me from the assaults of the evil one. Amen.*

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