

**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 **Romans 1:16-17**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

**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, Hearken**

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.



“The Lord Has Come As Long Promised”

**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 theme of *judgment* comes up again and again in this week's lessons. We normally think of that word with the Law, not the Gospel. "God will judge" means "God will condemn." But judgment goes two ways. When we stand before the judge there are (at least) two possible verdicts: guilty or innocent. If the Lord were to make His judgment based on our works, our life, and our efforts, all of us would be guilty. But the Lord renders His verdict for the Christian not according to our works but Christ's death. By His cross and suffering the verdict is this: we are innocent! We have the righteousness of Christ!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 11:2-10: Jesus, the Coming One**

This is almost an official title: "The Coming One." As soon as the Lord gave the promise of the Messiah in Genesis 3:15, Jesus was "The Coming One," the Promised One, the One on the Way, and at last He arrived. "The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John the Baptist preached, because the King of Heaven was here. But now, in prison, and at the end of his life, John wants to be sure. "Are you the Coming One?" "Go tell John the things you hear and see," Jesus says, and He reminds them of all the promises He has fulfilled. He is the Promised, the Long-Expected, who has come, at last, for us. *O Immanuel, we give You thanks and praise that You have kept Your promise and come to deliver us. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 4:1-2: Glory or Shame?**

"How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame?" (Psalm 4:2). This is one of the devil's dangerous tactics: he mocks the things we should be proud of. He snickers at the things we ought to love. He ridicules the gifts of God. The Christian often finds themselves in the awkward position of loving the things that the world despises, and our glory is turned to shame. We are tempted to be ashamed of our faith, of our baptism, of our confession of the creation and end of the world, even of our Savior Jesus Christ. But, praise the Lord, Jesus is not ashamed of us, and He continues to glory that we are His and He is ours. *You alone, O Lord, make us dwell in safety. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 4:1-5: Judgment and Justification**

We hear the word "judgment" and shudder. Judgment, in our imagination, means condemnation. It is important for us to remember that there are two possible judgments: guilty or innocent. There is a bad judgment and a good judgment. Justification is the judgment of God that we are innocent, acquitted, not guilty! Justification is God's judgment that the death of Jesus atones for our sins. Now consider Paul. Even though he does not know any sin disqualifying him from preaching, he still looks to God for His judgment and justification (see verse 4). Judgment and justification belong to the Lord, and in Christ He has judged us to be holy. *O Lord, judgment belongs to You. Judge us by the suffering and death of Jesus to be innocent in Your sight. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Malachi 3:1-6: The Lord Doesn't Change, Therefore...**

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed" (3:6). The Lord always wants us to know that His compassion stays the same. It is His mercy that endures forever. If there is one thing about the Lord that doesn't change it is His great love for us in Christ. The Lord doesn't change, therefore we are *not* consumed, we are *not* destroyed. We are, instead, redeemed, rescued, delivered, taken from darkness to light and from death to life where we walk in the ways of the Lord. *O Lord, we praise You that You do not change, that Your mercy endures forever, that You are love, and You have claimed us with Your everlasting love for eternal life. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 1:39-56: Magnificent**

What a magnificent hymn, this *Magnificat* of Mary. "My soul magnifies the Lord" who "puts down the mighty" and "exalts the lowly." The Lord turns things on their head. The proud are tossed out. The humble are lifted up. Everyone climbing their way into heaven by their own works and efforts fall short. Sinners trusting in the Lord's mercy are forgiven. The Lord surprises Mary and us with His kindness and mercy, so we, too, magnify the Lord who has regarded our low estate, and we confess and sing with Mary, "He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name." *O Lord help us in the remembrance of Your mercy, as You promised. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 1:16-25: The Gospel is the Power**

Paul follows the devolution of idolatry. When humanity suppresses the truth of God in unrighteousness then we stop worshiping God and worship the creation. We stop loving our neighbor and begin to use one another. Worship becomes idolatry and love becomes lust. But the Gospel is still the power of God to lay hold of sinners and save them. The Gospel is the promise that the wrath of God that you and I deserve, the wrath of God over our sins was poured out on Jesus instead of us. The Gospel promises forgiveness and perfection to sinners. It is the power of God for our salvation. *O Lord, give us Your righteousness and salvation in the promise of the Gospel. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 96-98: The New Song of the New Thing**

Psalms 96 and 98 are both "new song" Psalms. "Sing a new song to the Lord." Psalms 96 and 98 are also the Psalms the church sings at Christmas time. It's no accident. The new song is the song of the new thing the Lord does: the incarnation, birth, life, suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. "The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations." He was lifted up on the cross for all the world to see, and now, today, He judges us. How merciful is His judgement! For all who believe His promise have His innocence and righteousness. *O Lord, You have worked salvation for us. We thank and praise You for mercy, and we love to sing the new song of our salvation. Amen.*

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