

**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**  
“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.”

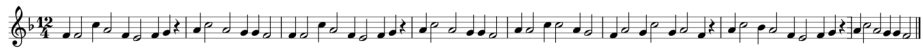
**7** READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

**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 Gospel isn't measured in prosperity, but in Christ's suffering and death for you. God's Word calls us to measure His mercy not by getting the things we covet, but by dwelling with us in darkness, and bringing a light that darkness cannot overcome. We celebrate Advent because it paints a picture of the Lord coming to His people to redeem and save, even in a world wrecked by sin. We don't measure the Gospel in prosperity, because the Gospel is Christ crucified for sinners. He has promised to redeem and save us, and when He returns in glory on the Last Day, to raise us up free from the bondage of sin and death.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:2-10 The Poor Have the Good News Preached to Them**

"Are you the One to come or shall we look for another?" John, the greatest man born of woman, sits in prison, waiting to die. He doubts. Jesus is supposed to free the prisoners. Jesus pierces through John's fear and speaks peace. Jesus speaks not just with signs and wonders, but with the Word and promises of God. "The poor have the good news preached to them." The One who is to come comes to conquer the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh on the cross. He answers fear and doubt with hope. *O LORD, speak to us through Your Word and soothe our doubt with the knowledge of the Gospel. Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4 Might in Mercy**

I hate being mocked for my faith. Part of me wishes that the world would honor our faith. I wish I could prove by what I have or do how wrong others are. But being Christian means being like Christ, who was mocked and belittled. This says a lot. The Lord demonstrates His might in mercy, His strength in weakness. He bears shame on the cross, and He promises to turn shame into honor, not in our works, but in His. The Lord has given relief to our distress, even as He has borne the cross for our righteousness. *Lord Jesus, hear our distress and answer us by bearing our shame upon the cross, that we may find honor in You. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 The Stewards of the Mysteries of God bring Jesus Faithfully to Sinners.**

The stewards of the mysteries of God are pastors. They must be faithful. Not "faithful" meaning people pleasers. They will not be judged by unhappiness of itching ears, but by the Lord. Pastors, if that's not the scarier judgment, repent. Laity, if you sit in the judgment seat and condemn your pastor, repent. Let us all look to the God who has called His stewards to strengthen them. As He works miracles through the mysteries they steward, turning wine into blood, that He would bless their work and keep them in faithfulness to the Word of truth. *Lord God, sustain Your pastors in faithfulness, that they may administer Your sacraments to and for sinners to the praise of Your glory. Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Malachi 3:1-6 Judgment Doesn't Mix with Postmodernism.**

Post modernism hates judgment texts. "The end is coming" sounds too finite. "Repent" doesn't fit my worldview. God's Law plays chicken with my ego. It wins. How long can I re-define my actions with soft sounding buzzwords? How long can I re-adjust my beliefs to fit my behavior? There is no standard but God's. No truth but Him. God promises to refine my impurities. It's a painful process, but He endures it on the cross for sinners, for me, for you. Repent. Believe. Not that you will do it perfectly, but that you will be refined by God. *O LORD, refine us through the fires of Christ that we may face Your judgment in hope of Your mercy. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56 Thou Shalt Not Magnificovet.**

Everything's upside down. The hungry are filled; while the rich are sent away. The more you covet, the better this sounds. I want my neighbors' stuff so badly I can't wait to see them thrown down so I can have it. Repent. See what Mary sees as she sings this hymn. The Lord regards her. He has not forgotten her. He has already helped Israel in remembrance of mercy. The child she carries isn't a chance to take from her neighbors, but God's countenance, which blesses. *O LORD, regard Your servants in mercy, and do not forget us in our need. Fix our eyes upon the cross where You emptied Yourself that we may be full. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 1:16-25 I am Not Ashamed of the Gospel.**

If you look for the power of the Gospel to be evident in anything other than the salvation of all who believe, you'll be ashamed. Plenty want the Gospel to mean prosperity. God's strength isn't in question. He made everything. The temptation to trade God for created things comes from wanting to use His creation for sinful purposes. I can find power in creation, but righteousness doesn't come from having lots of stuff. It comes only from the cross of Christ, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. *O LORD God, fix our eyes upon You, the Creator, and keep us from worshiping that which You have made, that the Gospel would be the power of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 98 Psalms of Praise are Fitting because They are About Jesus.**

Praise songs are fitting. God has made known His salvation. The Father sent His Son to be crucified for You. He will judge the peoples by His righteousness, and equally before the one all atoning sacrifice. This is something worth singing about. It is not trivia. It is our life and our salvation. The praise isn't the measure of the sacrifice. Christ is. We sing of all the deeds of the Lord, not just our feelings about Him. He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness. *O LORD, Send Your Holy Spirit to fill us with the knowledge of Your salvation that we would sing praises to Your name. Amen.*

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