

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 25:1-3a, 4-5, 21-22

To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.\*  
O my God, I trust in You; Let me not | be ashamed;  
Let not my enemies triumph | over me.\*  
Let no one who waits on You | be ashamed.  
Show me Your | ways, O Lord;\*  
teach | me Your paths.  
For You are the God of my sal- | vation;\*  
on You I wait | all the day.  
Let integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,\*  
for I | wait for You.  
Redeem Isra- | el, O God,\*  
out of all their | troubles.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Matthew 21:5

“Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, heavenly Father, bestow on us Your grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day when He will come again in His glorious Majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may then rise to the life immortal; through Him 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  
**Savior of the Nations, Come**

TLH 95, LSB 332  
Martin Luther



1. Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child  
Of the Virgin undefiled!  
Though by all the world disowned,  
Still to be in heaven enthroned.

6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright.

7. Praise to God the Father sing,  
Praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be  
Ever and eternally.



**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 Comes Even Now**

The opening week of Advent is full of expectation, as we look not to the King who came as the babe of Bethlehem, but look forward to the King who comes in righteousness and justice. He brings us out of the devil's kingdom and plants us in His, through the power of His Word and Holy Sacraments, in order that we would be defended from and delivered from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Although we have no righteousness on our own, He Himself is our righteousness, and has taken away the reproach of our sins.

**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-9 Behold, Your King**

It may strike you odd to read about Holy Week on the first Sunday of Advent, but this reminds us exactly what it is we are preparing for. We are not simply looking to reenact the birth of Jesus; that has already happened! He came once to redeem us from sin and death—we are reminded of that here. But we also confess that Christ will come again to bring us at last into His eternal kingdom on the Last Day. Advent, and this Sunday in particular, direct us toward the end of all things, when our Righteous King will bring us our salvation. *O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast to do in spirit lowly all that may please You best. Amen. (LSB 334, stanza 1)*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1 Blessed is the Man**

Two men are presented in the psalm. One blows around in every wind of new doctrine, but the other is firmly grounded in the Lord's Word. One is blessed, but the other is condemned. One will stand in the judgment, the other will perish. But when we look at our lives in the light of the commandments, we see that our delight is not wholly in the Law of the Lord. Thanks be to God for the One Man, Jesus Christ, who delighted in the Law on our behalf and gave us His righteousness, that we might be called blessed by our Father in heaven. *O Lord, grant that Your Word would make us fruitful, having been showered by the waters of Your grace. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:11-14 Salvation is Near**

Advent reminds us of the nearness of the Lord's return in judgment. The Apostle reminds us to check the sinful flesh by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. As Christians, who have put on Christ in baptism, we are locked in a daily struggle against the sinful desires of the flesh. Our Lord would have us look to him for all that we need, rather than taking for ourselves what we desire. Our salvation is at hand, however, and the Lord has already conquered our sins and evil desires by His death. We are no longer enslaved to sin, for we are set free by His blood. *O Lord, equip us with the full armor of God that we might stand firm in the evil day. Amen.*

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**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:14-18 Our Righteous Prophet, Priest, and King**

Jeremiah teaches us here about the threefold office of Christ. Jesus is our High Priest, who offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. St. Paul will later write, "He who knew no sin became sin for us, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus is our righteous King, who sits on the throne of David forever to bring justice, salvation, and security to His people. Finally, Jesus is our Prophet, who is prefigured in Jeremiah's office. He brings God's Word of life to us in these last days. *O Lord Jesus, fulfill the promises made to our Fathers in the faith, that our righteousness would be found in You. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:1-25 The Reproach is Taken Away**

Luke opens his gospel with a bridge to the Old Testament: Zechariah and Elizabeth are people of the Old Testament, looking forward to the coming Messiah. Zechariah served as priest, and his wife was even from the daughters of Aaron, the first High Priest. To them, God granted a child, John, who would be the forerunner of the Messiah. Elizabeth rejoiced that the reproach she had borne likely due to her inability to have children would now be removed in a most wondrous way. In the same way, John would point us to the one who would even take away our reproach by pointing us to the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. *O Lord, grant us faith to believe Your promises, that we might not bear the guilt of our sins. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:12-23 Transferred to the Kingdom of Christ**

Our inheritance in God's Kingdom is not something that we can earn. The Father qualifies us for this through the blood of Christ. Before our redemption, we were under the domain of the devil and sin. But by our Baptism into Christ, we have been transferred into another kingdom. We, who once were opposed to God and far away, have now been brought near by the blood of Christ, who is the head of the Church. We are now at peace with God because in Christ, all things are reconciled back to Him. So that we may obtain this peace, God established the pastoral office through the Apostolic office. *O Lord, grant us faithful pastors to bring us the reconciling word of the Gospel, that we might be brought nearer to You. Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 My Soul Thirsts for You**

As sinners, our only plea to God is for mercy. Apart from that, we are doomed to die, for no one is righteous before Him. But God has shown us mercy instead of judgment. He has promised salvation to all who call upon the Name of the Lord. This is made possible by the pleading for mercy Christ did for us in His death, as He spread out His hands on the cross. Bleeding and thirsty, Jesus, the Righteousness of God incarnate, bore the judgment of God for our sins in order to bring us up out of the pit. *O Lord, as we prepare to enter Your house tomorrow, bring to our remembrance all that You have done for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

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