

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 21:28**
“Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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



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



“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 9-15, 2018

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

Jesus came in humility to redeem us. Jesus is coming in glory to rescue us. It is the same Jesus, the same Savior, the One who loves us and does everything to bring us to life eternal. On every page of the Scriptures we are astonished by this truth: Jesus is the Savior, our Savior. In this truth we rejoice. In this truth we stand. In this truth we die and find eternal life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:25-36: Your Redemption Draws Near

The One coming on the great Last Day is the One who has already come for you, to die for you. The One returning is the One who hung on the cross for you. Jesus, the One who loves you, the One who forgives you, the One who shed His blood to atone for your sins, is coming. This is good news! When you see the cosmos start to crumble, the mountains falling over and the stars falling into the sea, “lift up your head,” Jesus says, “because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28). Your Redeemer draws near, to rescue you, at last, from sin, temptation, sorrow, death, and all the agony of this fallen world. *Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Grant me Your Holy Spirit that I continue to hope and long for the last day. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 42: As A Deer in the Wilderness

When we read the Psalms we want to ask, “What’s the picture?” The picture in this psalm is a deer in the wilderness, hunted, ragged, thirsty, staggering along looking for a drink. Her tongue is hanging out, dust is caked around its eyes, she pants as her body struggles to keep cool. The sun beats down, she drags her feet over the stones thinking only “water.” See it? That’s you. “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pant my soul for You, O God!” We are in the wilderness, in a thirsty place, afflicted within and without by troubles. We long for the refreshment of the Word and Spirit, and when we hear God’s Word, that refreshment comes. He restores hope and life. We drink deeply from His mercy. *I praise You, O Lord, my Help and my God. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:4-13: Hope on His Mind

Paul has hope on the mind. “...through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures we might have hope” (15:4), “the God of hope... you may abound in hope” (15:13). Hope is faith directed to the future. Faith has the confidence that Jesus has died and rose to save us. Hope has the confidence that Jesus will return to rescue us, just as He promised. Hope knows that He who was our Help yesterday will help us tomorrow, and that the One who died on the cross is the One who is coming on the clouds. The best is yet to come, because Jesus is yet to return. This is our Christian hope. *O Lord, continue to keep Your promises with us. Make us to abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Micah 4:1-7: The Lord’s House on a Mountain

Much of the imagery in the Old Testament is of the fortress. The Lord’s kingdom is a walled city on a hill or mountain, protected, well provided for, where His people are safe. This is a picture of the church, now and extending into the new heaven and new earth. The Lord is in our midst. We won’t be moved. The Lord is in the middle of His home, city, castle, fortress, and He gathers all His people there so that He might protect, keep, and provide for them. “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD... He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” *Gather Your people, O King of Kings, into the shadow of Your mercy. Grant us Your protection and peace. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-35: The Name Jesus

Mary and Joseph are given specific instructions regarding the naming of their boy. “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS” (Luke 1:31). Matthew tells us what this means: “You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). “Jesus” means “the LORD who saves.” It is who Jesus is AND what He does. He was given this name from heaven so that we would know, above all else, that He comes to save. Jesus is the Savior. *Lord Jesus Christ, save us, forgive us, by Our Rescuer and Redeemer. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 2:1-16: Everything Testifies of God

Everything testifies of God. Everything outside preaches that there is a Creator (the testimony of creation). Everything inside us preaches that there is an absolute right and wrong (the testimony of conscience). The Law is written on every human heart. But that testimony cannot save. It only brings wrath and judgement. This is a testimony that brings life and salvation, the preaching of the Gospel. “I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). Everything testifies of God, but only the Gospel testifies of God’s mercy. *Heavenly Father, give us Your Holy Spirit, so that we would rejoice in knowing You from creation, and most especially from the Gospel. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 91: A Chick Under the Wings

The picture of this Psalm, especially verses 3-6, is of a hen hiding under the wings of her mother chicken. If you’ve seen this, you know what I’m talking about. The hen sits on her chicks, and they disappear. If you want to get to the babies you will have to go through momma first. This is how it is with us and the Lord, “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge” (Psalm 91:4). We are covered by the Lord, completely protected, and not afraid. “You shall not be afraid” (91:5) at night, at noon, all through our life the Lord protects and keeps us. *O Lord, You are my Refuge and my Fortress, My God, in You I trust. Amen.*

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