

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 35:10; Psalm 39:4-5, 7-8**

The ransomed of the Lord / shall return,*
and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy / on their heads.
They shall obtain joy and / gladness,*
and sorrow and sighing shall / flee away.
Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure / of my days,*
that I may know how / frail I am.
You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing be- / fore
You;*
certainly every man at his best state is but / vapor.
And now, Lord, what do I / wait for?*

My hope / is in You.
Deliver me from all my trans- / gressions;*

do not make me the reproach of the / foolish.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 103:10**

[God] does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Absolve, we implore You, O Lord, Your people from their offenses, that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon us we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through 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
Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

TLH 609, LSB 516
Philipp Nicolai



1. "Wake, awake, for night is flying."
The watchmen on the heights are cry-
ing; "Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take!
Hallelujah!
With bridal care Yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

3. Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,
Let men and angels sing before Thee,
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, dwelling with the choir
immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No vision ever brought,
No ear hath ever caught,
Such great glory;
Therefore will we Eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee.



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 Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ brings up many questions. We ask: When? How? Where? All these questions that rack our brains would be better left unanswered until that actual day that He returns. For what do these matter? And how many days can we add to our life worrying about them? Instead, let us fill our hearts with the promises of what we have in Christ, even right now. For the gifts of eternal life and salvation are ours right here and now, even as we wait for them in full. We shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living, for

Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away our sin and brings us into His heavenly wedding feast as our perfect Bridegroom.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:1-13—The Ticket to the Wedding

Five are wise and five are foolish. The wise ones bring extra oil, even though that doesn't make sense. Why would you prepare for the Bridegroom to be late for His own wedding? They do prepare and so they get to go into the wedding. The others run off to get more oil when they hear of the Bridegroom's approach. They think it more important to have oil than to be there when the Bridegroom shows up. But the oil doesn't get you into the wedding; neither does the lamp nor the trimmed wick. The only thing that gets you into the wedding feast is the Bridegroom. Enter with Him, or not at all. Jesus is your ticket in. Not your works or preparedness or good thoughts or intentions; just Jesus. He is ready to bring you in to His eternal wedding feast based upon nothing except His forgiveness for you. *Bridegroom, may our eternal life be based on nothing but You. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103—Getting What We Don't Deserve

Why does David bless the Lord in this Psalm? Why do we? Are we blessing and praising God because of how majestic and powerful He is? Yes, but more. Who doesn't have a god like that? What other religion out there doesn't praise a god who is bigger than his followers? We have a compassionate Father. Our God knows that we are but dust, that He could wipe us off the face of the earth with a flick of His wrist and we would deserve it. But instead of treating us according to our sins, He forgives us. Instead of repaying us for our iniquities, He clears our debt and wipes the slate clean. We have a big God, but more, we have a loving and forgiving Father. *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11—What Do We Do While We Wait

Many look at the world and are sure that Christ is coming soon. He is! But "soon" also means waiting. Paul doesn't write to us anything about times and seasons. He doesn't need to, because it doesn't matter. Oh, be awake and prepared, that is certain. But that means nothing more than to be one of the wise virgins that we talked about on Sunday. Our salvation belongs in the hands of Jesus, our Bridegroom. Whether He comes today or tomorrow or next millennium and whether we are awake or asleep, we have the promise that we will live with Him. So what do we do while we wait? Encourage each other, just like you are doing. Then stand next to your fellow Christian with faith and love around your breast and the hope of salvation covering your head. *God, may we obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 65:17-19—What Do Know While We Wait

The Christian gets to do a funny thing while we wait for the coming of our Lord: Not only do we have the promise that He will come again and will bring about a new heaven and new earth and new body; but we may speak of it as if it is ours today. When God makes a promise it is as sure as done; and so we may delight in it as if it were already accomplished for and in us. Where is this new earth and new heaven? Right there, in the sure promise of God. Where is this new body I have been promised? Right there, in God's Word pledged for you. Where is this new Adam of mine? Right there, standing next to the old. But the old will one day vanish just like the old earth and this fallen flesh of mine. Then I will enjoy all things new. *Gracious Lord, may I rejoice in the new creation as if it were mine today. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:13-16—"Hide It Under A Bushel..."

As light we shine in the darkness. We do this so that others may see our good works and give glory to God. And this is important, for even though God doesn't need our good works, our neighbor does. But Jesus here, in this "salty-lightness" talk, doesn't just mean handing out sandwiches and shoveling your neighbor's sidewalk. These should be done, but they can just as easily be done by an unbeliever. (And if truth be told, sometimes they are even done better by unbelievers.) No, here in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus wants us to be a light of the Gospel. The good works that will cause our neighbor to give glory to God are the preaching and teaching of Christ crucified and the forgiveness of sins. In this proclamation, the whole world may rejoice. *Father, may we always be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: The Festival of St. Andrew/John 1:35-42a—We Have Found The Messiah

Andrew finds the Messiah and he tells his brother about it. What else could be done? This Jesus is the Anointed One, whom all of Israel has been waiting for. He is different than John the Baptist, for John is no Messiah, no Christ, no Lamb. But here, in Jesus, is the Messiah; and oddly enough He is a Lamb. He is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Andrew knows everything he needs to. A Lamb doesn't take away sin by might and power, or an army or by the strength of His arm. No, the only way that a Lamb can deal with sin is to have its flesh torn open and its blood poured out. Now, perhaps this wasn't the Messiah that Andrew and Peter were expecting (us either), but Jesus is the Christ of God, our Savior. He is the exact Messiah that we need. *Lamb of God, take away our sin and the sin of the world. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27—David Prays Our Prayer

Often times, in this Valley of Tears, we are surrounded by foes of every kind. Sin assails, death encroaches, the demons whisper and we are fearful. No one knows just how exactly our Lord will provide; David didn't, neither do we. The victory of God often looks different than what we would expect or than what we would want. And yet the promise is sure and certain: the Lord is our light and salvation. It may appear as if our enemies stand triumphant at the end of the day, but the assurance that we have is more certain than appearances. He will hide us in His shelter in the day of trouble, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our life. In Christ, not even the gates of hell can take this promise away. *Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me. Amen.*

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