

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 21:9**

"Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

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



- | | |
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| 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. | 6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright. |
| 3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the Virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heaven enthroned. | 7. Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally. |



Around the Word Devotions + November 27-December 3, 2016

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"The Lord Comes Even Now"

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 November 27-December 3, 2016

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord Comes Even Now

Blessed New Year—new Church Year, that is. Advent signals the turn of another calendar in the church's usual way of counting. We turn in repentance and faith to *fix our eyes again on Jesus, the author and perfecter of that faith, who for the joy set before Him, went humbly and willingly to Jerusalem to die for us. John cries in the wilderness, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand; Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."* And disciples follow after Him. The Lord bless our discipline of joining Around His Word this year, that it may bear fruit in repentance, faith, and holy living.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-9: Christ Comes to Save

It's an old Christian custom to begin the new Church Year with "*Hosanna*," "Lord, save us now." We greet Christ again, as it were, and wait expectantly for His second coming at the last day. But starting with Palm Sunday is more than a metaphor. It sets before us the focal point of our Lord's ministry on earth, and the weekend from which our entire Christian life (and year) comes, and to which it drives: Christ's entry into Jerusalem to die and rise. That is how He saves us. And what He accomplished there outside Jerusalem, He delivers to us in His Word and Sacraments. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1: Blessed to Gather Around the Word

If Sunday is the beginning of the new Church Year, Monday is the beginning of the new year of family devotion. Psalm 1 begins with a blessing for you as you gather Around the Word again: *Blessed is the one who delights in the Law of the Lord, and meditates on it day and night.* The counsels of the world come to nothing. Their ears and their voices are blown in the changing winds, directed by the shifty human heart. But you, dear Christian, are rooted like a strong, immovable tree when you are built on the foundation of the Scriptures. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13: 11-14: It's Later Than It's Ever Been Before

"*Salvation is closer now than when we first believed.*" Obviously—time never runs backwards. But Paul wants this urgency to cause us to examine ourselves and wake up. And our Savior's return is even closer now than when Paul wrote these words. Are we looking for and expecting Him? Will we be found with faith and its fruits of light; or will we be found in the faith-destroying darkness of manifest and open sin? Let us be encouraged and spurred on by the coming day to cast off these and daily put on Christ, as Baptism into Him indicates. *Clothe me now, Lord Jesus, and come soon to deliver me. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4: 18-22: St. Andrew

St. Andrew's Day signals the beginning of the new Church Year. Andrew was the first disciple called by Christ. He also was a disciple of John the Baptist first (John 1:35-42). He brought his brother Peter to Christ. Even though Andrew was "first," Peter surpassed him, we might say, in "importance." But the significance is not the disciple, but the One from whom the disciple has his life: Jesus Christ. Christ comes to call us as disciples who, like Andrew and his first teacher, John, always "*decrease, that Christ may increase.*" *Lord, give me the immediacy of St. Andrew in hearing Your Word. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1: 1-25: The Forerunner

Before the miraculous birth of God in the flesh, there is the lesser—but still miraculous—birth of John the Baptist. John comes from priestly blood, but is more of a prophet. The Spirit is with Him and he goes in the power of Elijah to prepare the way, to call to repentance, to lay flat men's egos and hearts. Even Zechariah is rebuked for his unbelief. But John is the forerunner of the truly Great One, the Lord who gave the blessing which Zechariah couldn't utter, whose face will give peace. *Lord, let us have joy also at the preaching of repentance, which leads to Christ our Savior. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1: 12-23: Jesus First

John bears the title, "Forerunner," but it is an honorary title. Christ is first in everything—the first and only-begotten of God, through whom the world was created. He is at the head of creation and the Church. But He is also the forerunner into death and the firstborn alive out of it. He goes there before us to reconcile us to God, making peace by the blood of His cross. *In Him all things hold together:* Let us fix our trust firmly on Him, then, and all our hope. For He is not only the first, but the last: Jesus Christ. *Lord Jesus, help us to follow You, until You present us holy and blameless before Your Father. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143: Advent is for Repentance

Advent is a season of penitence. (That's why its color is violet.) The last of the penitential Psalms is one of the most desperate pleas for mercy. But the foundation of this prayer is the plea that the Lord deliver David in His righteousness, not in David's. *No one living is righteous before You.* But the Lord's righteousness is His activity to justify, reconcile, and save us. That is why Jeremiah gives Jesus the name, "*The Lord, our righteousness.*" The Lord's faithfulness is why we pray as penitents. He hears. He answers. He comes to deliver us. *Hear my prayer, O Lord; in Your righteousness answer me. Amen.*

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