



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:4-5, 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. (Psalm 25:1-3a)  
 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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You 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  
**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.

## Around the Word Devotions + the week of December 1-7, 2024

### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord Comes Even Now

The dawning of the church's new year is the dawning of Christ's presence among His people. The prophet Zechariah saw Christ's coming from afar. More than just seeing Jesus enter Jerusalem, he saw Jesus' righteousness coming to you. In your time he saw his ancient pagan foes defeated and forgotten. Peace has been spoken to the Gentiles. He saw Christ's gracious rule extending from sea to sea. Through Jesus' sacrificed blood, the prisoners in sin's waterless pit have been set free. When Satan tempts towards despair, "Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope!" (Zech. 9:12) Return to Christ by hearing and believing His Word.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-9 – A Humble and Serving King

"Behold, your king is coming to you, humble..." Our Lord Jesus comes to us as our king, but not as the kings of this world. The kings of this world come, not in humility, but in pride. They seek not to serve others but to be served themselves. Jesus, though, is different. He comes, as the scriptures have foretold, in humility. He comes not to be served by His disciples, but to serve them (and us). He comes not in pride, seeking to acquire worldly fame and wealth, but in humility, seeking to save the lost. And Jesus' humility and service comes to its culmination at His cross, where He humbles Himself to the point of death. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble..." *Lord, thank You for coming to save me in the humility of Your cross. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1 An Introduction to the Songs of the Saints

Nothing serves Satan's plans quite as well as boredom, the thought that you've heard all this 'Christian' stuff before. It never changes, so why should I pay attention? Pay attention because you live in the drought-stricken wastes of a world warped into the image of men's sins. Pay attention because the winds of God's judgement are beginning to blow. Under its blast this world's works and ways must wither and perish. But blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. Neither the blight of sin nor the wrath of God's judgment can uproot him. Planted in the cool streams of instruction and mercy he lives eternally. *Teach me to delight and be instructed in the songs of Your saints, O Lord. 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.*

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 – Preparing Hearts for the Christ

St. John the Baptist has a very specific task, laid out not only from the mouth of Gabriel, but also from the Old Testament Prophets. He is to make way for the coming Lord. He is to level mountains, straighten paths, and prepare hearts. Like soil that is tilled in order for a seed to be planted, so also the heart must be made ready for the Gospel. Our Lord does this through the preaching of His Law. St. John does this as the forerunner, but he's not the only one. So too have all the saints before and all the saints after whom the Lord has called to prepare hearts for Christ. The Law is preached so that we can know how great our need is for a Savior, and then the Gospel is planted, and faith is born. *Lord, thank You for preparing my heart for You through Your law. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:12-23 From the Domain of Darkness to the Kingdom of His Beloved Son

These words are too high for us. And yet, these same words must be engraved on our hearts, committed to memory, and spoken out loud often for our comfort. Jesus is the "icon," the visible image of the almighty God. But He's no empty projection or mere representation of God. "All things were created through Him and for Him." Nor is He a lesser god. As is true only of God, "He is before all things." We're right to assert, "In Him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell." Through His flesh born in time, through Christ's suffering and death, the infinite and immortal God "reconciled to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross." *Grant me to continue in this faith, stable and steadfast, O Lord. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 In Your Faithfulness Answer Me

The 143rd Psalm is a prayer for spiritual peace in times of cross and trial. At the beginning and end of the prayer, you encounter these curious phrases that are unlike the language we use among one another. "In Your faithfulness, answer me!" "For Your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!" David isn't looking to cut a deal with God. He's casting himself completely on God and His grace. God's faithfulness, name, and righteousness give David the courage to demand deliverance. His sins ought to shame him into silence. But he knows the Lord's love. He knows God's faithfulness to His Word. He knows that his righteousness is not of works, but of faith. *Answer me quickly, O Lord! Amen.*

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