

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 **Romans 15:4**
“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,
that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have hope.”

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



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| <p>1. O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.</p> | <p>4. Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love behind all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.</p> |
| <p>2. Your Zion strews before You
Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You
With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.</p> | |



“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 8-14, 2024

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

During the season of Advent we don't just consider the First Coming of Jesus but we also consider the Second Coming. The first coming was promised of old and it was fulfilled when the angel Gabriel visited Mary and she conceived a son. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, lived, died, and rose from the dead. Just as we know the first coming was promised and then fulfilled, our certainty of the Second Coming of Jesus is built upon the promise that He will come again. We know it will happen just as the first coming happened. We abide in this hope.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:25-36 The coming of Christ

Jesus says that we should watch ourselves lest our hearts be weighed down with the cares of this life. There are certainly plenty of cares of life in this season of the year. It is easy to allow them to cause anxiousness and worry. There is a lot to do and not much time to do it and the energy levels are waning. The answer to this is that you "stay awake at all times, praying that you may have the strength." Jesus has come into the world and will come again so that you need not be weighed down. For the burden of Jesus is light and He gives you the strength to endure the cares of this life. *Dear Jesus, lift me up that I may not be weighed down by the cares of this life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 42 – Proceeding to the House of God

How natural it is to doubt God in times of suffering! The devil, the world, and the sinful flesh are quick to ask, "Where is your God? Either He is angry with you, or He cares nothing for you, or He does not exist at all." Dear Christians, do not listen to them. Instead, like the psalmist, go to the House of God in times of mourning and oppression. For there you will find God's Word, which strengthens you even in times of sorrow to hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, your Salvation and your God. *O God, save us from the oppression of our enemy and command us with Your steadfast love. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:4-13—Our Lord Sustains us

Christ came as a servant, the greatest of all servants, both to the Jews and the Gentiles. That is to say, Christ is a servant to all. As we wait for Christ's coming again in glory, the flesh can become weary, wondering if we have the strength to endure to the end. So we have the Word, incarnate and spoken and written down for our edification. It is that Word that encourages us and grants us the endurance to abide in Him until the end. Don't look to your own strength, that will surely fail. Instead, receive from God the forgiveness of sins and the promise of salvation that will allow you to live in harmony with one another and in accord with Christ Jesus; so that we may glorify Him, no matter our ills, until the great day of His coming. *God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Micah 4:1-7 World Peace

At the United Nations building in New York there is a bronze statue of a man wielding a hammer, beating a sword into a ploughshare. The statue was a gift to the United Nations from the then Soviet Union in 1959. The irony of a Biblical allusion by a militantly atheistic country like the USSR notwithstanding, the meaning is clear – through the diplomacy and intervention of organizations like the UN, there could be a lasting peace brought on the world. A worthy goal no doubt. But the true and lasting peace preached by Micah can only be found in Christ and His forgiveness, in His ingathering of all peoples to Zion the Church, where He will be their God. Work for peace. But there is only one Prince of Peace. *Jesus, be our King. Reign in us. Amen.*

THU

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

The angel Gabriel from heaven came to Mary. "Rejoice!" Indeed, this news is not only joy for Mary but for the entire world. "You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS... That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." God has a birth. God has a mother. God has a body. And all of this is so that God can have a funeral. Imagine it! The Son of God becomes the Son of Mary so that He can be crucified for us and become our Savior! Mary is not the only one who found favor with God. *O Lord, we thank You that You took on our humanity and our sin to win for us heavenly favor and mercy. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 2:1-16: No Excuse

Paul lets no one off the hook. Every human being is a sinner and deserving of God's wrath, even the Gentiles who were never given the Ten Commandments. Their conscience, says Paul, is enough to accuse them. We are not only condemned by God's standard of right and wrong, we are even condemned by our own. Imagine this: you are wearing a recorder around your neck, and every time you judge or condemn another person it clicks on and records what you say. And the Lord uses this recording, your own words, to judge you. I would rather have the Ten Commandments! But, thanks be to God, Jesus has taken all of our sin, and all of the wrath it deserved. He alone is our hope. He is our forgiveness, life, and salvation. *Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 91 – We Walk with Angels All the Way

This is the psalm that the devil misused in his temptation of Jesus, but Satan's abuse does not negate God's good purpose in giving us these words. God wills that we be comforted and encouraged in knowing that He has commanded His heavenly hosts to be our guards and protectors. What honor is given to us Christians, that we walk with angels all the way! Though sin, death, and the devil pursue us, we need not fear. The Most High has commanded His angels concerning us to guard us in all our ways, and finally to our heavenly home. *We praise You, O God, for the protection of Your holy angels. Amen.*

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