



“The Second Coming of Christ”

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 **Matthew 25:13 (NKJV)**

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

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

This is the time of the Christian year where we turn our hearts and minds toward the last things; the coming of Christ to judge the quick and the dead and the finality of that judgment, the temporal nature of the things of this world, and the glory of the life to come. The Christian man, full of wisdom, anticipates these things and orders his life by them, for they are the end and goal of our Christian hope. Earnestly desire to forsake the ways of this passing world, and so be found full of faith and trust when the Lord comes to take His bride, the Church, to Himself.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:1-13 The Wise and Foolish Virgins

The thing that separates the wise from the foolish is not what they look like or what they do. They are all virgins. They are all decked in the same baptismal wedding garment. Likewise, they all fail morally - they all fall asleep in their wait for the Bridegroom when he is seemingly delayed. What separates them is faith. The wise trust in the Lord who justifies the ungodly, they have oil. But the foolish had their oil, their trust, consumed by other gods and other gods. To the wise he bids them come to the wedding, but those who do not trust him he says "I do not know you." Trust in the Lord. For you know not the hour of His return.

Lord preserve our faith until the end, that we would come to Your feast with joy when You come. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103 Who Remembers You?

"As for man, his days are like grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more." (Ps. 103:15-16 NKJV). "Its place" is shorthand for man's domain - his family, his community, his world, really everything that we would think would remember us when we are gone. But it doesn't. We want to be remembered, and we might be for a while, but eventually memories fade, even as last year's grass. "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting" (vs. 17). The end our days will come and the only thing that endures for us is the mercy of God. Be found in it. He remembers you, He redeems you that you would not perish, but live forever. *Bless the Lord, O my soul! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 The Day of the Lord

The unbelieving world, marked in this passage by spiritual darkness, sleepiness, and drunkenness will continue to think that the world will keep going as it has been. "Peace and safety!" they cry, when there is no peace apart from faith and no safety apart from Jesus. They are heading for destruction as the great day of the Lord comes upon them unawares. But the Christians, those who eagerly await the Lord's coming, continue to encourage one another and build each other up in faith. They put on the sober virtues of faith, hope, and love so as to meet their Lord who died for them, whether they wake or sleep. There they have peace, safety. *Lord Jesus, help us to put off the works of darkness and so meet You with joy when You come again. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 65:17-19 New Heavens and New Earth

This world is passing away. As far as creation is concerned, there is no renewal, no salvaging of the old world. Indeed, the world is stored up for the conflagration of fire "But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same Word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Pt. 3:7). Indeed, the only things which will come out of this present world are the souls who trust in the Lord Jesus. What are you storing up for? The things which you strive after already have a burning fuse attached to it. Put your trust in eternal things, the eternal gospel which has been proclaimed to you, so that you will come to that new heaven and new earth which does not fade away. *Lord keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21 The Rich Fool

It's weird that the rich man addresses his soul. Who talks to their soul? You would think that he would address his body, that element of him which gets to enjoy all that food and drink and leisure. Now there is nothing wrong with food and drink and leisure, or even with making profit, but if these things are the sum total of your life so that you will say to your SOUL, that is, your entire spiritual being, that all is well with you, that you need not think of repentance from sin and faith toward Christ, you are literally, according to this parable, a damned fool. Lay up treasure therefore in heaven, not on earth. And do that by saying to your soul, "Soul, you need Jesus." *Lord, make me rich toward You and not toward anything else in this world. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:1-7 "The Former Things..."

....have passed away." (vs. 4) What former things are we talking about? Pain. Sickness. Death. Sorrow. Weeping. These are the things that have no place in the New Jerusalem, the new City of actual, lasting, peace. These former things have lost all their power in Jesus' death and resurrection. And yet they are borne to a lesser extent in those who are His Baptized. That is your experience here. You know sorrow and tears and death. But they are the former things. They are coming to an end. New things are indeed come - "Behold, I make all things new!" (vs. 5). This new thing begun in your baptism will be brought to completion in the day of utter and complete peace, joy, and happiness. *Lord, sustain me and bring me to Your new things. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 Wait.

David, speaking in the Holy Spirit, encourages the soul to "wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord!" (vs. 14 NKJV). He is doubly emphatic - wait! He says this specifically because of our tendency to NOT wait and trust that the Lord will deliver on His promises. He says "He WILL strengthen your heart" which means that right now, his heart needs strengthening. This psalm is not pious self-talk or bravado "My heart will not fear..." but is godly encouragement to those who suffer the effects of sin in this life. It points us not to ourselves but to the Lord who is mighty to save. For those who pray thus in faith, the Lord WILL strengthen him by His Spirit. *Lord, strengthen me by Your Word. Amen.*

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