

**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;\*

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 21:36**

“But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**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 crying:  
"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.



“The Second Coming of Christ”

**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 26-December 2, 2023

## THEME OF THE WEEK: The Second Coming of Christ

“At midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’” The summons will come at a time when everyone least expects it. Heavens and earth will be shaken. Mankind will be seized with dismay. Drunkenness, dissipation, and the cares of life will threaten to weigh the hearts of the faithful down into the slumber of unbelief. And yet the Bridegroom himself has assured us that that day will come upon the unwary like a trap. No one will miss it. No one will be left behind. When that day comes, how will you receive it? By God’s grace you will lift your heads in joy knowing your redemption has come!

SUN

## SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:1-13 Wisely Spending the Time

Wisdom is justified by her deeds. The five wise virgins took advantage of the daytime to find oil for their lamps in anticipation of the Bridegroom’s arrival. In the way you are called to exercise wisdom while you wait for Jesus’ coming on the Last Day. The buyers and sellers are open. In fact, their goods are bought without money. The price for the oil has been paid in advance by the sufferings and death of the Bridegroom himself. Spend your time wisely. Go to church. Go to Bible Study. Open the Scriptures and find comfort in the promises. When the sleep of death comes, rest secure knowing that you will be awakened with joy when you hear the Redeemer’s voice. *“Grant me the oil of your grace and faith to prepare for Jesus’ coming.” Amen.*

MON

## SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103 How God Deals with Us

If only we could only believe this psalm we would never be dismayed. How often do we interpret affliction as signs and tokens of God’s deep displeasure toward us? When we fall through temptation into sin, our hearts are frightened with the thought that God cannot possibly save someone who so cheaply treats his grace. In the tribunal of our conscience the verdict is always against us. There’s no room for mercy. And yet, what did we just hear? “The Lord will not always hide nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.” The Spirit meets the devil’s accusations with this promise to save you. *“Cause me to remember your Son in times of spiritual affliction.” Amen.*

TUE

## SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Children of the Light

Imagine going to bed thinking there’s no one coming over and no possibility that you’ll hear someone knocking at the door. Hearing a knock in the middle of the night and the door’s hinges creaking as someone lets himself in is terrifying! So it will be with those who do not anticipate Christ’s coming. Now imagine that you know the person you love most is coming. Being awakened by the same sounds in the darkness brings a whole different experience. Instead of terror there’s joy. So it is for you. Jesus won’t come as a stern judge for you. “For God has not destined us for wrath.” He comes to bring you life, comfort, joy and peace. *“Heavenly Father, keep me a child to the light by never taking the light of your gospel from my heart.” Amen.*

WED

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

These heavens and earth are tired, old, and worn out. Like with a frayed and threadbare garment we can see the world groaning in anticipation of renewal. Nature has been despoiled. The waters are tainted. The air is poisoned. Society is in shambles. Men no longer fear God nor know how to love their neighbors. Everything is subjected to futility. God be praised that he has delivered this great promise to us today. He comes to create a new heavens and earth and the old ways of sin and death will not even be remembered. Weeping and sorrow will cease. The Lord’s joy and gladness in and for us will give us eternal life. Christ is coming soon, dear saints. Pray he comes quickly. *“Grant me patience to wait for your Son’s coming, heavenly Father.” Amen.*

THU

## SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:13-16 Salt of the Earth

No other philosophy or religion has the Christian’s way of anticipating the end of all things while at the same moment preparing to wait. People notice. They expect the Christians to act suicidally like other doomsday cults, but we don’t. They expect us to fall into lassitude and finally give up the vigil to go extinct, but we don’t. This excited anticipation and longsuffering patience is slat to the drab flavors of this world’s apathy. Don’t let them tell you otherwise. Don’t let them shame you into silence. Be light in this benighted world by confessing your faith in Christ and happily giving the reason for the hope within you. *“Grant me your Holy Spirit, O Lord, to give me courage to confess and show my great love for you.” Amen.*

FRI

## SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:1-7 “Behold I am making all things new!”

The dwelling place of God is indeed with man through the incarnation of Christ, the Son of God, who came to take away the sin of the world. Since that time of his first coming, Jesus has remained with us whenever we hear his Word or receive his Sacraments. We can’t see him, but he is personally and fully present. When the last day comes, our eyes will catch up with our ears and hearts. We will see what we have long believed and hoped for. Don’t be afraid. Don’t fear the judgment. You have already passed from death to life in Baptism. Your name has been recorded in the Book of Life. You have been prepared together with the whole church to be the pure and beautiful Bride of Christ. *“Grant me to always wait for your coming, O Lord.” Amen.*

SAT

## SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 or 97 One Thing

What do you seek after? The flesh seeks after its own comfort and glory. It seeks after pleasure and riches. But these idols are as fleeting as the world around us. They will not last. They will be destroyed. The psalmist teaches us that the Christian’s spirit, the new life given to us by grace and faith in Christ, turns away from idols to seek after the Lord and his presence alone. We find it in the Divine Service here on earth. We find it in the absolving words of the pastor on Sunday morning. Our hearts seek to see this presence, not only believe it. This is what we call hope. It is turned from the perishing world and directed towards Christ alone. *“You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.” Amen.*

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