

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm 85:1-2, 6, 8**

Rejoice in the Lord / always.\*  
Again will I / say, rejoice!  
Let your gentleness be known to / all men.\*  
The Lord / is at hand.  
Lord, You have been favourable / to Your land;\*  
You have brought back the captivity of / Jacob.  
You have forgiven the iniquity of Your / people;\*  
You have covered / all their sin.  
Will You not revive / us again,\*  
that Your people may re- / joice in You?  
I will hear what God the / Lord will speak,\*  
for He will speak peace to His / people.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 11:6**  
“Blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

**7** READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Lord, we implore You, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You now 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  
**Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken**

TLH 75, LSB 345  
Valentin Thilo, Jr.



1. Ye sons of men, oh, hearken:  
Your heart and mind prepare,  
To hail the almighty Savior,  
O sinners, be your care.  
He who of grace alone  
Our Life and Light was given,  
The promised Lord from heaven,  
Unto our world is shown.

4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus,  
Turn not from me aside,  
And grant that I receive Thee  
This blessed Advent-tide.  
From stall and manger low  
Come Thou to dwell within me;  
Loud praises will I sing Thee  
And forth glory show.



**Around the Word Devotions + December 17-23, 2017**

Brought to you by **Worldview Everlasting**

**“The Lord Has Come As Long Promised”**

**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 Lord Has Come As Long Promised**

This year the third week is the last week of Advent. Leading up to the yearly remembrance of the incarnation (Christmas), we hear Scriptures of doubt and faith. There is a scandal found in Christ. It is not all happy thoughts and holiday joy. Just as Christmas comes no matter how sad or sorrowful our life's situations, so Christ's Gospel is preached despite many difficulties. Faith looks to what is unseen, unpossessed, and intangible. It relies on God's promise only. It must, therefore, be renewed and strengthened constantly by that promise. In doubt, return again to what is most sure: Christ's Word and gifts. And let your dissatisfaction with this world be a reminder of the joy that will be ours in Christ when He comes again.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 11:2-10—Offensive Christ**

Blessed is the one who is not scandalized by Jesus. What is so offensive about healing the blind, lame, and deaf? It is His preaching of repentance and faith. The miraculous signs are the credentials and consequence, not the content of Christ's work. The Gospel message cannot be reduced to temporal help. John, for example, does not get out of prison alive. Still, John remains unashamed of Christ and His Gospel. It is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. What are poverty, imprisonment, or death if Christ raises the dead? *Lord, give me confidence to look for Your coming without offense. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 4—Rest in Peace**

Psalms 4 is traditionally the first Psalm at Compline every night. It recognizes the wandering thoughts we have as we lay our heads on the pillow at the end of each day. Are you angered? Put it to rest. The anger of men does not produce the righteousness of God. Are you distressed? Put your trust in the Lord. Are you anxious over scoffers who can find no good in life and who love lies? Know that the Lord sets apart His holy ones for Himself. So go to bed at once and in good cheer. Rest in the peace and safety which only the Lord, your righteousness, can provide. *Answer me when I call, O Lord. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 4:1-5—Slaves and Stewards**

A pastor is to be regarded as two things: a slave of Christ, and a steward of the mysteries of God. He is bound to Christ's commands, words, and institutions. He is not ours to boss around or mould as we wish. Christ's commands, words, and institutions, however, are mysteries that are to be stewarded. They are not to be hoarded. The Office of the Ministry, like all good authority, is not for the benefit of those in authority, but those under it. Christians are the recipients of God's own mysteries. Good stewardship is kept when the gifts are distributed. *Lord, keep the stewards You have given to me faithful. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Malachi 3:1-6—The Day(s) of His Coming**

John the Baptist is the Lord's messenger, but we may not recognize the Christ who follows him. When does Jesus cleanse, purify, with fire and a day which no one can endure? Here is an example of how the prophets saw the Lord's advent as one day all brought together. Judgment and Salvation, arrival and the end all coincide. It is as if Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and the Last Day were all smashed together. We can understand this best when we see that everything accomplished in Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection will be fulfilled and revealed in us at the last day. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 20:24-31—St. Thomas**

The famous account of Thomas "doubting" (literally, unbelieving) has made him a sort of cautionary tale in ages past. In more modern times, however, he's become a hero because of that doubt. Thomas wanted to see the body. He wanted proof of the resurrection. He would not be satisfied with a "spiritualized" resurrection. Neither should we. We, however, are those who fall under Christ's "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe." We are thankful for the apostolic witness, including Thomas. *Lord, give me firm faith in Your promises and joy in Your resurrection. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 1:16-25—Unashamed of the Truth**

The great ongoing sin of mankind is not to be found in its symptoms, what we might name and pick out among our many misdeeds. It is rather the exchanging of truth for lies. It is adopting, preferring, and enjoying futile thinking. It is seeking wisdom in our own follies. In our day idol carving has given way to all sorts of self-creation, but the root trouble is the same. God's wrath is revealed against all of this. But the Gospel is about a righteousness from God that is given, revealed, and handed off to faith. Those who are righteous by faith shall live. *Lord, enlighten my heart with Your truth. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 98—New Songs of the Savior**

Psalms 98 is the Psalm appointed for Christmas. It wants us to sing a new song—the song of the Lord's "Right Hand" and "Holy Arm" who worked "Salvation" by "revealing His righteousness in plain sight." Jesus, whose name means "Savior," is now revealed. He is the Father's "right hand" and "holy arm." Indeed, His Son of His very substance and one with Him. And His salvation is a revelation of God's righteousness in Christ, worked for Israel and all Gentiles also. The "newness" of this song is that its content is Christ. *Lord, I give You praise for Your salvation in Jesus. Amen.*

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