**PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK**  
Psalm 25:1-3a, 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.  
Show me Your ways, O Lord;*  
teach me Your paths.  
For You are the God of my salvation;*  
on You I wait all the day.  
Let integrity and uprightness precede me,*  
for I wait for You.  
Redeem Israel, O God,*  
out of all their troubles.

**SAY 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.

**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 Comes Even Now

Our King comes in humility, to take our sins and die for them. He comes still through His Word to build up and encourage and bring to faith. He comes still through His sacraments to clothe and forgive and strengthen us to live in the light. He will come also on the Last Day to raise us to eternal life. He will come then in great strength and power, but still in the body which started it all. When our Lord comes to us, it’s never apart from His body. Flesh, blood, feet, and hands, all of which do great and wonderful things for us. He comes with His body to forgive, strengthen, renew, and raise. And He does that even now.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-9 – Behold Your King

Behold your king is coming to you, humble. The Lord does not come in the manner we think would be befitting for a king. We expect a king to enter, with banners waving and trumpets blaring. He will indeed return that way, but first He comes in humility. He comes to stand under the weight of our sin. He comes to stand under the weight of the death that belongs to us and the Father’s wrath that we deserve. What a King we have! One who, in humility, endures the shame of the cross and death in order that He would then call us His. This is how we’re brought into His kingdom, by His death. Behold, your King! King of Kings, we praise You for Your great humility, shown in Your death for us, help us also to live in humble faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1 – The Blessed Man Jesus

The man is ever blessed who shuns the sinners’ ways, among whose counselors never stands, nor takes the scorners’ place. Our humble king comes and does not take the counsel of wicked men. The kings of ages past had, and they had been led astray from the Lord’s Word. But Jesus takes only the counsel of the Father. He hears and rejoices in the Lord’s Word. He is directed to the cross. He stays the course and does not succumb to sin. He does not scoff and ridicule the Lord in His judgements but humbly stands under them. And from that grows a life-giving tree, the cross, for us to be sheltered by and strengthened through to be blessed also. Lord, keep me from wicked ways and counsels, and help me always to rejoice in Your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:11-14 – Clothed With Jesus

The humble King will return soon. We march second by second closer to that day. We are encouraged to stand in the light, in the Lord’s Armor which is placed on us in our baptisms. There, as St. Paul reminds us, we stand having put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and that armorment protects us from the schemes of the devil but also from our own fleshly desires. We walk, not as the wicked do, but in the footsteps of the blessed man. We do that because He Himself is draped around us as a garment. We cast off the garments of the world and flesh, and rejoice in our heavenly baptismal garment. Lord Jesus, grant that I would be strengthened in my baptismal faith to fight against the desires of the flesh and rejoice in You. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:12-23 – God in a Body. For You

God has a body. It’s such a strange thing to say or hear, but it’s true. In Jesus, all the fullness of God dwells bodily. But even greater than this is the reason He has a body: so that you would be reconciled to Him. He takes that body and He places it into all the sins of humanity, and He nails that body to a tree, and He places it in a grave, and He raises it in glory. That’s all for you! Because of this, you are presented before God, washed in His blood, clothed with His Son, as holy. Perhaps this is the most striking of all, God, in Christ, calls you Holy. All of this because God has a body. Lord, as You have taken my flesh upon Yourself, help me to treat my body and the bodies of others with the honor they deserve, because You have redeemed them. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 – The Work of God’s Hands

No one living is righteous before you. You, me, your neighbor, none. We’re not righteous. We stand as sinners before the true and living God. And His judgment is clear. If left to ourselves, there would be nothing but terror. But we consider also the work of His hands. Hands that have created all things and uphold all creation. Hands that have been nailed to a cross. Hands that have raised the dead and healed the sick. Hands that bless. Considering these hands, and their work, we are encouraged. We are driven away from despair. And we are reminded that these hands have bled for our sake. Blessed Lord, help me to trust in the works of Your hands, and not my own, that I would be brought safely to eternal life. Amen.

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