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 salv | vation;*
on You I wait | all the day.
Let integrity and uprightness pre | serve me,*
for I | wait for You.
Redeem Isra | el, O God,*
out of all their | troubles.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.

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

The opening week of Advent is full of expectation, as we look not to the King who came as the babe of Bethlehem, but look forward to the King who comes in righteousness and justice. He brings us out of the devil’s kingdom and plants us in His, through the power of His Word and Holy Sacraments, in order that we would be defended from and delivered from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Although we have no righteousness of our own, He Himself is our righteousness, and has taken away the reproach of our sins.

SUN

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

It may strike you odd to read about Holy Week on the first Sunday of Advent, but this reminds us exactly what it is we are preparing for. We are not simply looking to reenact the birth of Jesus; that has already happened! He came once to redeem us from sin and death—we are reminded of that here. But we also confess that Christ will come again to bring us at last into His eternal kingdom on the Last Day. Advent, and this Sunday in particular, direct us toward the end of all things, when our Righteous King will bring us our salvation.

O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast to do in spirit lowly all that may please You best. Amen. (LSB 354, stanza 1)

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1 Blessed is the Man

Two men are presented in the psalm. One blows around in every wind of new doctrine, but the other is firmly grounded in the Lord’s Word. One is blessed, but the other is condemned. One will stand in the judgment, the other will perish. But when we look at our lives in the light of the commandments, we see that our delight is not wholly in the Law of the Lord. Thanks be to God for the One Man, Jesus Christ, who delighted in the Law on our behalf and gave us His righteousness, that we might be called blessed by our Father in heaven.

O Lord, grant that Your Word would make us fruitful, having been showered by the waters of Your grace. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:14-18 Our Righteous Prophet, Priest, and King

Jeremiah teaches us here about the threefold office of Christ. Jesus is our High Priest, who offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. St. Paul will later write, “He who knew no sin became sin for us, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” Jesus is our righteous King, who sits on the throne of David forever to bring justice, salvation, and security to His people. Finally, Jesus is our Prophet, who is prefigured in Jeremiah’s office. He brings God’s Word of life to us in these last days. O Lord Jesus, fulfill the promises made to our Fathers in the faith, that our righteousness would be found in You. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:1-25 The Reproach is Taken Away

Luke opens his gospel with a bridge to the Old Testament: Zechariah and Elizabeth are people of the Old Testament, looking forward to the coming Messiah. Zechariah served as priest, and his wife was even from the daughters of Aaron, the first High Priest. To them, God granted a child, John, who would be the forerunner of the Messiah. Elizabeth rejoiced that the reproach she had borne bore witness to the power of her Heavenly Father. Zechariah was a High Priest and his wife was a daughter of Aaron. In the same way, John would point us to the one who would even take away our reproach by pointing us to the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

O Lord, grant us faith to believe Your promises, that we might not bear the guilt of our sins. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:12-23 Transferred to the Kingdom of Christ

Our inheritance in God’s Kingdom is not something that we can earn. The Father qualifies us for this through the blood of Christ. Before our redemption, we were under the domain of the devil and sin. But by our Baptism into Christ, we have been transferred into another kingdom. We, who once were opposed to God and far away, have now been brought near by the blood of Christ, who is the head of the Church. We are now at peace with God because in Christ, all things are reconciled back to Him. So that we may obtain this peace, God established the pastoral office through the Apostolic office. O Lord, grant us faithful pastors to bring us the reconciling word of the Gospel, that we might be brought nearer to You. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 My Soul Thirsts for You

As sinners, our only plea to God is for mercy. Apart from that, we are doomed to die, for no one is righteous before Him. But God has shown us mercy instead of judgment. He has promised salvation to all who call upon the Name of the Lord. This is made possible by the pleading for mercy Christ did for us in His death, as He spread out His hands on the cross. Bleeding and thirsty, Jesus, the Righteousness of God incarnate, bore the judgment of God for our sins in order to bring us up out of the pit.

O Lord, as we prepare to enter Your house tomorrow, bring to our remembrance all that You have done for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

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