Daughter of Zion,*
behold, surely your salvation is coming.
The Lord will cause His glorious voice to be heard,*
and you shall have gladness of heart. (Isaiah 20:29, 30; 62:11)
Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,*
You who lead Jacob like a flock.
Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!
Return, we beseech You, O God of Hosts,*
look down from heaven and see.
Let Your hand be upon the Man of Your right hand,*
upon the Son of Man whom You made strong for Yourself.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

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

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.

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 MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning. 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 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 Is Yet to Come Again**

Jesus came in humility to redeem us. Jesus is coming in glory to rescue us. It is the same Jesus, the same Savior, the One who loves us and does everything to bring us to life eternal. On every page of the Scriptures we are astonished by this truth: Jesus is the Savior, our Savior. In this truth we rejoice. In this truth we stand. In this truth we die and find eternal life.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 42: As A Deer in the Wilderness

When we read the Psalms we want to ask, “What’s the picture?” The picture in this psalm is a deer in the wilderness, hunted, ragged, thirsty, staggering along looking for a drink. Her tongue is hanging out, dust is caked around its eyes, she pants as her body struggles to keep cool. The sun beats down, she drags her feet over the stones thinking only “water.” See it? That’s you. “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pant my soul for You, O God!” We are in the wilderness, in a thirsty place, afflicted within and without by troubles. We long for the refreshment of the Word and Spirit, and when we hear God’s Word, that refreshment comes. He restores hope and life. We drink deeply from His mercy. I praise You, O Lord, my Help and my God. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 15:4-13: Hope on His Mind

Paul has hope on the mind. “…through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures we might have hope” (15:4), “the God of hope… you may abound in hope” (15:13). Hope is faith directed to the future. Faith has the confidence that Jesus has died and rose to save us. Hope has the confidence that Jesus will return to rescue us, just as He promised. Hope knows that He who was our Help yesterday will help us tomorrow, and that the One who died on the cross is the One who is coming on the clouds. The best is yet to come, because Jesus is yet to return. This is our Christian hope. O Lord, continue to keep Your promises with us. Make us to abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 2:1-16: Everything Testifies of God

Everything testifies of God. Everything outside preaches that there is a Creator (the testimony of creation). Everything inside us preaches that there is an absolute right and wrong (the testimony of conscience). The Law is written on every human heart. But that testimony cannot save. It only brings wrath and judgement. This is a testimony that brings life and salvation, the preaching of the Gospel. “I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). Everything testifies of God, but only the Gospel testifies of God’s mercy. Heavenly Father, give us Your Holy Spirit, so the we would rejoice in knowing You from creation, and most especially from the Gospel. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Micah 4:1-7: The Lord’s House on a Mountain

Much of the imagery in the Old Testament is of the fortress. The Lord’s kingdom is a walled city on a hill or mountain, protected, well provided for, where His people are safe. This is a picture of the church, now and extending into the new heaven and new earth. The Lord is in our midst. We won’t be moved. The Lord is in the middle of His home, city, castle, fortress, and He gathers all His people there so that He might protect, keep, and provide for them. “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD… He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” Gather Your people, O King of Kings, into the shadow of Your mercy. Grant us Your protection and peace. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 91: A Chick Under the Wings

The picture of this Psalm, especially verses 3-6, is of a hen hiding under the wings of her mother chicken. If you’ve seen this, you know what I’m talking about. The hen sits on her chicks, and they disappear. If you want to get to the babies you will have to go through momma first. This is how it is with us and the Lord, “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge” (Psalm 91:4). We are covered by the Lord, completely protected, and not afraid. “You shall not be afraid” (91:5) at night, at noon, all through our life the Lord protects and keeps us. O Lord, You are my Refuge and my Fortress, My God, in You I trust. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 1:26-35: The Name Jesus

Mary and Joseph are given specific instructions regarding the naming of their boy. “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS” (Luke 1:31). Matthew tells us what this means: “You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). “JESUS” means “the LORD who saves.” It is who Jesus is AND what He does. He was given this name from heaven so that we would know, above all else, that He comes to save. Jesus is the Savior. Lord Jesus Christ, save us, forgive us, by Our Rescuer and Redeemer. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 21:25

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- **SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 42: As A Deer in the Wilderness

- **SCRIPTURE:** Romans 15:4-13: Hope on His Mind

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