

**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;\*

do not make me the reproach of the / foolish.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 27:14**

“Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart;  
Wait, I say, on the LORD!”

**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.

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

It's hard to wait, because we have no sure knowledge of when our suffering will end. But we do know it *will* end, and when it does eternal joy will follow. Waiting is also difficult because we don't know exactly what to expect next. And so we must consider what is promised – not just the heaven promised to hope, but the current forgiveness and peace that God promises to faith. Or is waiting hard because we don't understand why? Then we must respond by asking who – who must suffer. Who waited in perfect patience? Whom did God afflict for us? Who commended His future joy to God as he suffered for you? And why – for what? You know where courage comes from. It is the courage that only God's child can have – only one whom God has disciplined. It is courage you have learned from God's Son, the Lord. He will strengthen your heart.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 25:1-13: Wise with Wisdom**

Scripture makes us wise unto salvation. The gospel is the wisdom of God. All ten virgins learned the gospel. But only five really cared about it. The word for wisdom in the Bible is *sophia*. But the word Jesus uses might better be translated as thoughtful. Only five virgins gave the gospel much thought. Faith is not a mere vessel that we must have – a correct confession or orthodox congregation to belong to. Faith also includes the thoughts we have toward God, knowing and staking our joy on what He thinks of us for Jesus' sake. *Lord, grant that we ponder what You teach us to believe. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 103: From East to West**

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." This does not mean that our sins are simply far away from us. It means that our sin can never reach us again. No matter where you stand, the east is one way and the west is another. When the glorious Sun set in the west, He brought all our sins with Him into the grave. When He rose in the east, He brought eternal life and sunshine to our hearts. *Lord, when our sin disturbs us, may our souls look to You who bore it for us (Psalm 130:6). Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11: Sons of Light**

Who is surprised at noon to see the sun shine? But at midnight, it would strike fear and wonder. One behaves a certain way when what he does is exposed by the light of day compared to when it is unseen and hidden. We must live as though God sees all. This requires courage, since we know what the light of the law reveals. But the Lord strengthens our hearts as we wait for our salvation to appear by bringing our salvation to us in the forgiveness of sins. *Lord, may we see where our sin was borne that we might not be ashamed in the light of Your Day. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 65:17-19: New Heaven and Earth**

Will all things be forgotten? This is a strange comfort. Do we want nothing at all to be remembered? Really? Is it sinful to want to hold on to memories of life on earth? Is everything so tainted by sin that it is better forgotten altogether? Although we do not live on a new earth, we *are* God's new creation. May it comfort us that, though sin shall be forgotten, the life we live by faith today is the same life that lasts forever. "Soon years on earth are past; but time we spend expressing the love of God brings blessing that will forever last" (LSB 713:5). *Lord, grant us this joy. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 12:13-21: Thanksgiving Day**

How do we show gratitude? By receiving and enjoying what one graciously gives us, to be sure. Imagine inviting someone over for dinner today and that person refused to eat. How rude. On the other hand, imagine if he simply filled his pockets and left. Wow! We do no wrong in planning for the future. But more precious than all the earthly gifts God gives us while we dwell in this earthly tent is the invitation to abide in His house forever. Feasting on His mercy through faith in His Son, true merriment and gratitude abound. *Father, may we receive and enjoy what You give us today and always. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 21:1-7: Prepared as a Bride**

We see what passes away and what remains by seeing that image of the Church prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. This is how Christ has always seen us by faith. He presents us to Himself no differently even now. So what do we wait for? We anticipate when we will fully be what God even now says we are. And though we pray these words boldly now, the day will soon come when shame and regret will no longer incite us to cry, "Lord, have mercy." Mercy will be complete. Faith will meet its goal. *Lord, dwell with us until we dwell with You forever. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 97: Love and Hate**

"You who love the LORD, hate evil!" You who love must hate. To love mercy is to hate all those things that contradict the grace of God – worldly perversions that war against the soul – whatever would so defile the conscience that sin is no longer repented of. To repent of your sin is to hate your sin. But to believe that Christ has paid for your sin by His suffering and death for you – this is to love the Lord. *Lord Jesus, teach us to hate what You hate; preserve our souls; uphold our hearts with gladness. Amen.*