

“The Second Coming of Christ”



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 **1 Thessalonians 5:10**

“God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him.”

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 cry-
 ing; "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.

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**

Wake up, sleepy hearts! The Lord is coming soon. He comes not in wrath, but in mercy, for He is the Church's Bridegroom. He has purchased us by His blood, and we are His. He comes to deliver us to eternal life, raised incorruptible to dwell with Him in the land of the living; the new heavens and new earth. We salt and enlighten this world with our eager expectation, with our confident trust, and with our delight in His mercy. At last we will see our faith finished, our hope realized, and our Lord face to face. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 25:1-13—Joyful and Ready Expectation**

Faith and hope must not run out. The Bridegroom is coming. He has ransomed us and pledged Himself to us in His death; soon He returns to bring salvation to its consummation, and this old age to an end for good. Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour when He will return. Our hope is not a short-lived affair, one that loses its punch with time because we are just wishing. Christian hope is expectation. We expect the resurrection of the dead, as the Creed says. That expectation keeps hearts and minds aflame with the Lord's promises & gifts. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 103—Mercy & Steadfast Love**

The Lord made His ways known to Moses: "Mercy. Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." That mercy is from everlasting to everlasting; man, by contrast, is like grass that withers. We are sick with sin, as the commandments of God show. We must have the mercy of the Lord be steadfastly poured out toward us. And in Christ, it is. We know God's fatherly heart and find our sins removed far from us. Thus, we look for healing and redemption from our mortality, and begin already to bless the Lord with angels and heaven's host. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus, not in anger but mercy. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11—Like a Thief in the Night**

The Lord's analogy of a "thief in the night" is not about what the thief does but when he does it. The unexpectedness of the Lord's return is in view. The Lord is no thief. He comes for what belongs to Him. He comes to take us to Himself in the resurrection forever. So, then, if we expect the resurrection of the dead—and if we live with a sober mind in such confident faith and hope—the unexpectedness is no longer a problem at all. We expect not wrath but salvation, since Christ has died for this purpose. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and bring the light of Your true and eternal security. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 65:17-25—New Heavens and New Earth**

The future is the new heavens and the new earth. Isaiah foresees an eternal life that is at the same time like our own and at the same time quite different. The young man "dies" at age 100; houses and cities and vineyards last; fruitlessness—including miscarriage—will be no more. The Scriptures are clear that no one dies in eternal life, and no one is married or given in marriage; yet, how else can we describe it? The former things—sin and death—will be forgotten; but bodily life as we've never yet known it will be ours. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and bring joy to our fallen hearts with Your new creation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 5:13-16—To the Father's Glory**

The Lord will cause His Church to continue to the end of the world. He builds her, so nothing can stand against her. He makes her like a city on a hill or a lamp on a stand. And His holiness, the good works prompted by His Holy Spirit and begun in us, shine forth to His praise. You know how it is—if you've been in the dark, sometimes light stings your eyes. Salt can sting an open wound. The Church has rarely been universally loved in the world. That won't stop unless she abandons Christ; but in the end, even this will be to the Father's glory. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and deliver us in Your glory. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 21:1-7—New Heavens and New Earth II**

Haven't we heard this before? Yes. The Lord promised it by Isaiah. But now, John allows us to see it for ourselves with him. See that the new Jerusalem is not only a city, but the bride of Christ. See how God dwells with man, which is why the former sins and death of this life are gone forever. See how He makes all things new. See His work finished. And see how it is given to us by the Alpha and Omega without payment. This is the beatific vision, the eternal life which has been won for us by Christ. See and be comforted! *Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and bring us out of the former things into new life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 27—Stronghold of Life, Present and Eternal**

We love the opening and closing of this Psalm. There is nothing to fear with the Lord. He gives courage to our hearts. But the enemies not only encamp against us; they call us to join them. We should take to heart the central verses also: one thing only is needful, that we dwell in the Lord's house all our days, that we are hidden in His shelter (the Church), and that we never cease to believe and expect that we will look upon His goodness in the land of the living. Do not only rest confident knowing you have a Bridegroom; look eagerly and expectantly for His coming. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

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