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.

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 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 soon coming. 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: Psalm 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: Revelation 21:1-7—New Heavens and New Earth II

The new Jerusalem is not here and not yet. Yet, we see the Alpha and Omega of all things in that new Jerusalem. So, we do not only rest confident knowing you have a Bridegroom; look eagerly and expectantly for His coming. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and deliver us in Your glory. 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: Psalm 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 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.

SAT

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.

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