

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm 85:1-2, 6, 8**

Rejoice in the Lord / always.\*  
Again will I / say, rejoice!  
Let your gentleness be known to / all men.\*  
The Lord / is at hand.  
Lord, You have been favourable / to Your land;\*  
You have brought back the captivity of / Jacob.  
You have forgiven the iniquity of Your / people;\*  
You have covered / all their sin.  
Will You not revive / us again,\*  
that Your people may re- / joice in You?  
I will hear what God the / Lord will speak,\*  
for He will speak peace to His / people.

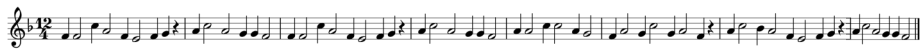
**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Romans 1:17**  
“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.””

**7** READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Lord, we implore You, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You now live and reign with the Father 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 **Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Harken**  
TLH 75, LSB 345  
Valentin Thilo, Jr.



- 1. Ye sons of men, oh, hearken:  
Your heart and mind prepare,  
To hail the almighty Savior,  
O sinners, be your care.  
He who of grace alone  
Our Life and Light was given,  
The promised Lord from heaven,  
Unto our world is shown.
- 4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus,  
Turn not from me aside,  
And grant that I receive Thee  
This blessed Advent-tide.  
From stall and manger low  
Come Thou to dwell within me;  
Loud praises will I sing Thee  
And forth glory show.



“The Lord Has Come As Long Promised”

**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.

## Around the Word Devotions + the week of December 17-23, 2023

### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord Has Come As Long Promised

The Lord has come as long promised. We rejoice in this good news! Thanks be to God! But do we remember that He is coming again as He has promised? Not merely as a theological abstraction, but in our daily thinking, living, speaking, doing? Do we consider all things as though we are pilgrims on this earth, strangers in a strange land? The answer, we must confess, is no. We become enamored with the things of this life and lose sight of the hope of the world to come. *Lord, forgive us! Work in us such longing for Your kingdom that our whole being would rejoice in eager expectation. Work in us the joy of Your coming Advent and that day when we sing: "Joy to the world! The Lord is come!"*

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:2-10 Even Now...Present Active

Present tense, active voice. The Gospel is in plain sight, in the grammar. In Jesus, the blind now receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. This is what Jesus has come to do and is even now doing. In Him we are even now the dead who are made alive, the deaf who are given ears to hear, lepers who are cleansed. In Him we are blessed. *Lord Jesus, come to us now and bless us with Your gifts! Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4 The Word is Sufficient

David teaches us to cry out to God in our distress in this psalm in the midst of the mockery of unbelievers. We are easy to mock since we hope and trust in the promise of God whom we have not seen! And we do not yet have that which we have been promised. We do not yet possess the glory we have been promised. David encourages us to pray and wait for the promises' fulfilment. In those promises we dwell in safety and sleep in peace. We praise Him whom we have not seen; His Word is sufficient. *Come, Lord, Jesus, as You have promised. Gather us to Yourself! Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Gracious Judgment

"It is the Lord who judges me," Paul writes. That doesn't sound like a good thing, does it? If that judgment comes by His Law, we will perish. None is righteous...except Jesus. And this Jesus has given Himself for you to be judged in your place. Your sins are counted against Him. He has borne all their punishment, even death itself. The Father's judgment has been poured upon His Son. In Him we are set free. The Lord's judgment upon us is delivered each week: "Go in peace! Your sins are forgiven." *Gracious Lord, we give thanks for Your judgment upon us, for the sake of Jesus! Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Malachi 3:1-6 Prepared to Meet Jesus

The Lord's messenger goes to prepare the way before Him. John the Baptizer does that; he prepares the way for Jesus by preaching repentance and forgiveness in Jesus. Pointing to Him, John the Baptist cries out: "Look! There He is! God's Lamb appointed to be sacrificed for your sins." It wasn't only for those in his own day. It's the same message that prepares us to meet Jesus as He comes to us now. It's the message that prepares us as He comes again on the Last Day. Repent and believe the good news: your sins are forgiven in the Lamb of God, Jesus! *Lord God, set our hearts upon Jesus, our Savior. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: John 20:24-31 Blessed by Hearing

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." That's faith: not seeing, yet believing that which the Word and promises of God declare. Today the Church celebrates God's work in St. Thomas. He wasn't always a man of faith! He boldly declared himself an unbeliever. Graciously Jesus restored him to the fold. He has done the same for you, working faith in you to believe even though you have not seen. He has blessed you, along with your brother Thomas, to have a place in His kingdom. *Lord, bless us with Your Spirit to believe Your Word and never waver. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 1:16-25 The Life-Giving Truth

We can shake our heads and wonder how people can worship created things rather than the Creator. But we know the truth. It has been revealed to us by the Spirit of God, through His Word. We believe in ourselves as our own gods. We've believed it ever since Eden, worshiping that which is created. )! Thanks be to God that He entered into His creation, took on flesh and blood, and worked salvation for us by His Son. He has restored both God and creation to their rightful places in the hearts of the faithful. This is the life-giving truth. *Gracious God, create clean hearts in us and do not take Your Holy Spirit from us! Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 98 The Song of Salvation

"Sing to the Lord a new song!" Indeed! He has entered into His creation to redeem it. He has purchased it, bought it, paid for it in full. With the lifeblood of His Son, He has bought it back from death. He has given His judgment in a simple word: righteous. And not merely "as though" we were righteous. His judgment declares us righteous. Let all creation cry aloud that He has done this marvelous thing! Let all creation sing this song of righteousness together. "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:10) *O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good! Amen.*

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