

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:1-3a, 4-5, 21-22**

To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
O my God, I trust in You; Let me not | be ashamed;
Let not my enemies triumph | over me.*
Let no one who waits on You | be ashamed.
Show me Your | ways, O Lord;*
teach | me Your paths.
For You are the God of my sal- | vation;*
on You I wait | all the day.
Let integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,*
for I | wait for You.
Redeem Isra- | el, O God,*
out of all their | troubles.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 20:28**

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, heavenly Father, bestow on us Your grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day when He will come again in His glorious Majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may then rise to the life immortal; through Him 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
Savior of the Nations Come

TLH 95, LSB 332
Martin Luther



1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the Virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heaven enthroned.

6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.

7. Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.



“The Lord Comes Even Now”

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 2-8, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord Comes Even Now

Our King comes in humility, to take our sins and die for them. He comes still through His Word to build up and encourage and bring to faith. He comes still through His sacraments to clothe and forgive and strengthen us to live in the light. He will come also on the Last Day to raise us to eternal life. He will come then in great strength and power, but still in the body which started it all. When our Lord comes to us, it's never apart from His body. Flesh, blood, feet, and hands, all of which do great and wonderful things for us. He comes with His body to forgive, strengthen, renew, and raise. And He does that even now.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-9 – Behold Your King

Behold your king is coming to you, humble. The Lord does not come in the manner we think would be befitting for a king. We expect a king to enter, with banners waving and trumpets blaring. He will indeed return that way, but first He comes in humility. He comes to stand under the weight of our sin. He comes to stand under the weight of the death that belongs to us and the Father's wrath that we deserve. What a King we have! One who, in humility, endures the shame of the cross and death in order that He would then call us His. This is how we're brought into His kingdom, by His death. Behold, your King! *King of Kings, we praise You for Your great humility, shown in Your death for us, help us also to live in humble faith. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1 – The Blessed Man Jesus

The man is ever blessed who shuns the sinners' ways, among their counsels never stands, nor takes the scorners' place. Our humble king comes and does not take the counsel of wicked men. The kings of ages past had, and they had been led astray from the Lord's Word. But Jesus takes only the counsel of the Father. He hears and rejoices in the Lord's Word. He is directed to the cross. He stays the course and does not succumb to sin. He does not scoff and ridicule the Lord in His judgements but humbly stands under them. And from that grows a life-giving tree, the cross, for us to be sheltered by and strengthened through to be blessed also. *Lord, keep me from wicked ways and counsels, and help me always to rejoice in Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:11-14 – Clothed With Jesus

The humble King will return soon. We march second by second closer to that day. We are encouraged to stand in the light, in the Lord's Armor which is placed on us in our baptisms. There, as St. Paul reminds us, we stand having put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and that armament protects us from the schemes of the devil but also from our own fleshly desires. We walk, not as the wicked do, but in the footsteps of the blessed man. We do that because He Himself is draped around us as a garment. We cast off the garments of the world and flesh, and rejoice in our heavenly baptismal garment. *Lord Jesus, grant that I would be strengthened in my baptismal faith to fight against the desires of the flesh and rejoice in You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:14-18 – Secure Now, Secure Then

Behold the days are coming! The first fulfilment of that has come. Our humble King has come in our flesh to save us, executing the justice and judgement of the cross and exchanging our sin for His righteousness. But there is still a greater fulfilment to come, when the King returns again on the Last Day, and we are given to dwell securely. We have the foreshadowing of that now, as we dwell secure in our baptism, in the promises of scripture, and in the gift of the Altar. On that Last Day all these will come into their fullness when we will be delivered from all enemies, sin, devil, and even death. Then we will dwell securely, in our bodies, forever. *Lord Jesus, preserve me in the one true faith until that time when You return to raise me in all glory. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:1-25 – True Greatness

He will be great before the Lord. That greatness, describing John, is not the greatness we would expect. Just as with our humble King, the greatness of John is in His preaching, its content and subject. He points all to the Lamb Slain. He points his listeners to their own sins and to the One who takes sins away. He rebukes and he comforts. It's always about Jesus. In his preaching many are turned to righteousness. They are turned from themselves and their false worship to trust in the true and living God. That is true greatness before the Lord. Trusting the promises of God, even when it looks like they are nothing but foolishness, and weakness. *Heavenly Father, grant that I would faithfully trust Your word, and turn people to Your Son. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:12-23 – God in a Body, For You

God has a body. It's such a strange thing to say or hear, but it's true. In Jesus, all the fullness of God dwells bodily. But even greater than this is the reason He has a body: so that you would be reconciled to Him. He takes that body and He places into it all the sins of humanity, and He nails that body to a tree, and He places it in a grave, and He raises it in glory. That's all for you! Because of this, you are presented before God, washed in His blood, clothed with His Son, as holy. Perhaps this is the most striking of all, God, in Christ, calls you Holy. All of this because God has a body. *Lord, as You have taken my flesh upon Yourself, help me to treat my body and the bodies of others with the honor they deserve, because You have redeemed them. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 – The Work of God's Hands

No one living is righteous before you. You, me, your neighbor, none. We're not righteous. We stand as sinners before the true and living God. And His judgement is clear. If left to ourselves, there would be nothing but terror. But we consider also the work of His hands. Hands that have created all things and uphold all creation. Hands that have been nailed to a cross. Hands that have raised the dead and healed the sick. Hands that bless. Considering these hands, and their work, we are encouraged. We are driven away from despair. And we are reminded that these hands have bled for our sake. *Blessed Lord, help me to trust in the works of Your hands, and not my own, that I would be brought safely to eternal life. Amen.*

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