

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 20:29, 30; 62:11; Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17**

Daughter of | Zion,*
 behold, surely your salvation is | coming.
The Lord will cause His glorious voice | to be heard,*
 and you shall have glad- | ness of heart. (Isaiah 20:29, 30; 62:11)
Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,*
 You who lead Jacob | like a flock.
Restore | us, O God:*
 cause Your face to shine, and we | shall be saved!
Return, we beseech You, O | God of Hosts,*
 look down from heav- | en and see.
Let Your hand be upon the Man of Your | right hand,*
 upon the Son of Man whom You made strong | for Yourself.

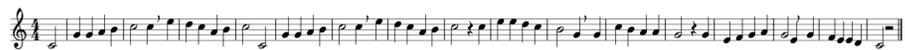
6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 91:2 (NKJV)**
“I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.’”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son that by His coming we may be given to serve You with cleansed minds; through the same 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 **O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee** TLH 58, LSB 334
Paul Gerhardt



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| <p>1. O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.</p> <p>2. Your Zion strews before You
Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You
With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.</p> | <p>4. Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.</p> |
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“The Lord is Yet to Come Again”

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 Lord is Yet to Come Again**

This second week of Advent has one foot in the second coming of Jesus at the eschaton, when He will raise the dead and give eternal life to all believers, and one foot at the first coming of Jesus, His incarnation in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Christians look to both comings of our Lord as central to our hope in God. The Lord is come to share our sorrows as well as our death, to die and rise and to justify us to God by faith alone. And the Lord will come at the end to fulfill all that He has promised us – new life, resurrection, and eternal life with Him and all the saints.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 21:25-36 Don't Let Your Belly Rule**

"Carousing, drunkenness, and the cares of this life..." Sounds like America in the weeks leading up to Christmas, what we call the "holiday season." For many, this is a time dedicated to the concerns and cares of this life, for self-indulgence, partying, and excesses of every kind. This is dangerous, for when you're looking at your own belly and its wants and desires, you cannot look up. You cannot pray for your redemption to draw near. Jesus warns us to take heed of ourselves, lest His coming to us be a surprise and we are caught in unrepentance. Watch therefore. Pray. Repent. Your Lord draws ever nearer. The joy He brings with Him pales any pleasure here. *Lord Jesus, forgive my sins, and come quickly to take me to Yourself. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 42 "Where is your God?"**

My lazy flesh sometimes skips the appointed readings. But you can't on this one. Stop and pray Psalm 42. Christians live and work in a sinful world and sometimes suffer the reproaches of that world. In fact, Jesus promises it. Our world continues to say to us Christians, "Where is your God?" (vs. 3, 10). We Christians are counted as weak, backward, out-of-date and out-of-touch. And yet our Lord is faithful. This psalm encourages us to call out to God in the midst of our troubles and remember His mighty works. He is your vindication. He is your joy. What can man do to you? *Jesus, help me to remember Your mercy and count the reproach of the world as nothing. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 15:4-13 The Power of the Bible**

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Rom 15:4 NKJV). Take this one to the bank, dear friends in Christ. The Bible, the whole thing, the entirety of it, is written for your learning, for your upbuilding in the faith, resulting in a hope that does not fail. So take it up. The psalms, the histories, the prophecies, the gospels, the letters, they are all God-breathed and useful for the Christian life. They point to Jesus. They are the true wisdom which the world cannot overthrow. They bear the Holy Spirit. So, read. Learn. Inwardly digest. Be challenged. Be comforted. You won't be disappointed. *Jesus, open Your word to me that I would praise You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Micah 4:1-7 World Peace**

At the United Nations building in New York there is a bronze statue of a man wielding a hammer, beating a sword into a ploughshare. The statue was a gift to the United Nations from the then Soviet Union in 1959. The irony of a Biblical allusion by a militantly atheistic country like the USSR notwithstanding, the meaning is clear – through the diplomacy and intervention of organizations like the UN, there could be a lasting peace brought on the world. A worthy goal no doubt. But the true and lasting peace preached by Micah can only be found in Christ and His forgiveness, in His ingathering of all peoples to Zion the Church, where He will be their God. Work for peace. But there is only one Prince of Peace. *Jesus, be our King. Reign in us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 1:26-38 Homo Factus Est**

Oh what joy! The long-awaited Messiah, the God-man, the Redeemer promised to Adam and Eve in the garden, the One prefigured in every temple sacrifice, a Kinsman Redeemer better than Boaz, a King mightier than David, an eternal Priest after the order of Melchizedek, the all-holy God who created the heavens and the earth, in the mystery of the ages, He is become one of us. Every Christian voice ought to sing out, every heart leap for joy, every knee bow at that wonderful mystery we confess week by week *"and was made man"*. God has taken on your flesh. He is one of us. To have flesh to give, and blood to pour out for your forgiveness. *Jesus, may this mystery dwell in me by faith that I may have the joy of Your Holy Spirit.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 2:1-16 The Middle of the Sermon**

Paul's preaching ought to hit us square between the eyes "You are inexcusable, O man, *whoever* you are..." The Jews who have the law, the 10 Commandments, do not keep them. The Gentiles, who do not have the law in the same sense, yet have the substance of the law written on their consciences, do not keep them either. Paul will spend this chapter and most of next chapter saying in not so few words "You are a sinner. The Law cannot help you." At this preaching of Paul we need to learn to say yes and amen. We are guilty. At the Lord's coming we would be undone. And yet... Go back to your bible and read Chapter 3. The rest of Paul's sermon will be of great comfort to you. Let this be your joy. *Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. Have mercy on me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 91 Don't Fight. Hide.**

Christians don't fight. They hide. For some foes cannot be bested by flesh and blood. First, sin. The evil which dwells in you, as well as the evil which you have done cannot be undone or rooted out of you. And this brings your second enemy, death. It will come for you and there is nothing you can do against it. Your time will come. The wages of sin is death. And third, the devil, throws your sins in your face and plagues your conscience every day of your life. What does one do? Hide. Hide in the Lord. Let His wings cover you. Let His forgiving baptism wash you and His Supper pass over your lips. Let His death and resurrection be for you. There you are safe. Your enemies fall by your side. *Lord, be with me in trouble and deliver me. Amen.*

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