

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 **Psalm 103:2-5**

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

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 crying:
"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.



"The Second Coming of Christ"

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**

Christ will come again in glory. He has already come, but his glory looked different than it will on the Last Day. 2000 years ago His glory was veiled in humility. It came in the form of suffering death on the cross. That glory looked like a defeat, looked like no glory at all, but through the cross came victory over sin, death, and the devil. Because of this, He now reigns at the right hand of the Father, with everything placed under His feet. That means we, too, have the victory, as we await the fulfillment of the promise. His coming is as certain as the empty tomb. And so we wait patiently for the coming of the Lord.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 25:1-13—What Gets You Into The Wedding Feast**

We all find ourselves wondering which group of virgins we are a part of. We hope and we pray that we are wise, that we have enough oil in our lamps when the Bridegroom appears. That's fair, I suppose, but then we walk away from this parable focusing on the wrong thing. What is it that actually gets the virgins into the wedding feast? All ten had a lamp and all ten had oil to have that lamp burning at the beginning, but they were still all left outside. So perhaps we should stop looking at the lamp or the oil or even the virgins. Perhaps we should look at something/someone else. Maybe our ticket into the wedding feast isn't our lamp or our oil, but the Bridegroom. Jesus is the guy Who gets you in. He and nothing else! *Bridegroom, bring us into Your heavenly banquet, that we may dine with You forever. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 103—Bless the Lord**

Father, may I not forget You and all of Your benefits, for You forgive all my sin and redeem my life from the pit. You work Your righteousness to the ends of the world, for You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You refuse to deal with us according to our sins, but only according to Your Son. Your steadfast love is endless and our transgressions are removed from Your face as far as the east is from the west. We know that we are but dust and that our days are spent like the grass of the field. Yet Your kingdom is established forever and You promise to us that we have a place in it. The angels proclaim Your mighty works of salvation in the heavens, even as the Church does so on earth. All of Your works are righteous and perfect. Your dominion encompasses all places. For all of this my soul blesses Your holy name. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11—Like A Thief In The Night**

On Sunday Christ came as a tardy Bridegroom, today He comes like a thief. Two different pictures with one similarity: We know not the day or the hour. But St. Paul isn't all that concerned about not knowing. The Church shouldn't be concerned with when Christ is going to come again. It is enough for her to know that He will. And so with that knowledge the Church goes about her business of "staying awake," which is nothing more than saying be ready when Christ returns, which is nothing more than saying be where Christ is today (Word and Sacrament). Then you might also be where Christ is on the Last Day. And so the Church waits patiently for her Savior so that when He comes in the middle of the night she is ready and prepared that He might steal her away to the glories of salvation. *Savior, thank You for dying that we might live. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 65:17-19—New Heavens And A New Earth**

Isaiah has a hard job. He is prophesying about things that have not yet happened to people who don't believe they ever will. Isaiah tells of a time in which the restoration of Jerusalem would take place, which is hard for his audience to understand because Jerusalem is still standing. And yet at the same time he is talking about the restoration of the new heavens and the new earth, even as we are living in the old heavens and old earth. Simply put, Isaiah 65 is a chapter about hope in the certainty of what our Lord has promised. God is bringing an end to this fallen and broken up world, but that is not the end. He will also, through His Son, make all things new again. That means the restoration of not just the spiritual, but also the temporal. *Lord, bring about Eden for us once again, as You have promised in Christ. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 17:11-19—A Thankful Leper**

Ten lepers walk away from Jesus that they might show themselves to the priest. That's the way of it. That is how the unclean are once again declared clean; through the mouth of the priest. On their journey they are cleansed, leprosy gone. And yet only one of them returns to Jesus in order to give thanks; and he a Samaritan. I'm not going to give the others all that much grief, they are only doing what Jesus told them to do. But perhaps they should have realized that where God spoke to His people before through the priest, He Himself is now speaking to them through His Son in the flesh. For the person of Christ is where God now reigns, in order that we might have access to His salvation through His death and resurrection. *Christ, bring to us thankful hearts that we might recognize that we receive everything from You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 21:1-7—All Things New**

This is a picture of the Last Day when the One Who sits on the throne, the Lamb of God, makes all things new. When Christ proclaims a promise it is sure and certain and valid throughout all time and space. That is why we can be comforted in the "now" even as we wait for the "not yet". The "not yet" is already accomplished in Christ. So, things in the "now" are allowed to still be broken. But broken as they are, their brokenness means nothing. For on the cross Christ said, "It is finished!" Nothing more needs to be accomplished. *Christ, give us comfort in the "now" as we await for the "not yet." Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **John 1:35-42—St. Andrew**

Andrew was there from the beginning. In fact, he was there with the Baptist, as one of his disciples. And after John said that he must decrease so that Jesus could increase, Andrew understood what that meant: they had found the Messiah. Andrew was one of the first recorded evangelists. Upon learning who Jesus was, he went and found his more famous brother, Peter and brought him to Jesus. And so we give thanks to our Lord above on this Feast Day of St. Andrew, that through the proclamation of the Word, he recognized Jesus to be the Christ, the Savior of the world and also that he knew that this was a proclamation that had to extend past him, past his brother, and to the ends of the world. *Jesus, our Messiah, grant us faith like Andrew that we might believe in and proclaim You. Amen.*

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