



“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 14-20, 2025

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

The final preparations are being made; we joyfully await a king who comes to us through the humble womb of the virgin Mary. Let us then heed the call of John the Baptizer; let us take warning from the creation which testifies to His goodness. Let us repent of our sins and acknowledge that we need a Savior. And then let us give thanks that God sent Him, born of a woman, to fulfill the promise made to Abraham. The Seed of Abraham, God promised, would be a blessing to all nations. Let us, with all creation, make a joyful noise.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:2-10: Justified By His Works

The problem with sinners is that they forever say one thing and do another. Sinners have to be justified by faith alone because their works finally never measure up. It's entirely otherwise with Jesus. He is Who He says He is and does what He says He will do, so that when we with John "heard... about the works of Christ," we know He is truly the Coming One. Our hope in Him is never misplaced. We need look nowhere else for the Savior than to the One who preached the gospel to the poor.

Lord Jesus, we praise You for Your works of mercy and grace, most of all Your dying and rising for us. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4: Glory or Shame?

"How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame?" (Psalm 4:2). This is one of the devil's dangerous tactics: he mocks the things we should be proud of. He snickers at the things we ought to love. He ridicules the gifts of God. The Christian often finds themselves in the awkward position of loving the things that the world despises, and our glory is turned to shame. We are tempted to be ashamed of our faith, of our baptism, of our confession of the creation and end of the world, even of our Savior Jesus Christ. But, praise the Lord, Jesus is not ashamed of us, and He continues to glory that we are His and He is ours. *You alone, O Lord, make us dwell in safety. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5: Servants and Stewards

How should you view your pastor? St. Paul says, "... as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." Pastors are servants, or literally, slaves of Christ. They're not called to be people pleasers because they are accountable to Him. They are to serve Him by being faithful to His Word. Every pastor is also a steward of the mysteries of God, that is God's gifts of Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Holy Supper. These are the sacred mysteries of salvation, which nourish and care for you in every spiritual need. *O Lord, bless all those who proclaim Your truth that we may be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Malachi 3:1-6: The Lord Doesn't Change, Therefore...**

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed" (3:6). The Lord always wants us to know that His compassion stays the same. It is His mercy that endures forever. If there is one thing about the Lord that doesn't change it is His great love for us in Christ. The Lord doesn't change, therefore we are not consumed, we are not destroyed. We are, instead, redeemed, rescued, delivered, taken from darkness to light and from death to life where we walk in the ways of the Lord. *O Lord, we praise You that You do not change, that Your mercy endures forever, that You are love, and You have claimed us with Your everlasting love for eternal life. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 1:39-56: The Humble Will Be Exalted**

Jesus entered humbly into the world through the womb of the virgin Mary. He who rules all creation came to earth to live and serve those who rejected Him. Not only did God look on the humble estate of man, but He entered into that humility; He showed mercy to us. This mercy transforms the people of God from enemies into children. It raises up the poor, and the proud, sinful, haughty man it destroys. He fills up the hungry and thirsty with the food of righteousness. He who suffered the humility of the cross and is now exalted at the right hand of God has joined Himself to us that we might be exalted with Him. *God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we give You thanks for sending the promised seed and making us children of Abraham by faith. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 1:16-25: The Powerful Gospel**

St. Paul writes that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation. Yet, what is so powerful about the Gospel that it lays hold of sinners and saves us from sin, the condemnation of the Law, eternal death, and the power of Satan? The answer is Jesus. Jesus is the saving content of the Gospel because He alone perfectly fulfilled the Law and suffered God's wrath for sin. Apart from the preaching of Jesus, there is no power or salvation. Only through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus are sinners called to faith and declared righteous as a free gift of God's grace. *O Lord, let us not be ashamed of Your Gospel, for it is Your power for salvation. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 96-98: The New Song of the New Thing**

Psalms 96 and 98 are both "new song" Psalms. "Sing a new song to the Lord." Psalms 96 and 98 are also the Psalms the church sings at Christmas time. It's no accident. The new song is the song of the new thing the Lord does: the incarnation, birth, life, suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. "The LORD has made known His salvation: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations." He was lifted up on the cross for all the world to see, and now, today, He judges us. How merciful is His judgement! For all who believe His promise have His innocence and righteousness. *O Lord, You have worked salvation for us. We thank and praise You for mercy, and we love to sing the new song of our salvation. Amen.*

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Again will I / say, rejoice!

The Lord / is at hand.

You have brought back the captivity of / Jacob.

You have covered / all their sin.

that Your people may re- / jice in You?

for He will speak peace to His / people.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

8

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.

Valentin Thilo, Jr.



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| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
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