

**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 **Revelation 21:2**

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God."

**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**

The Last Day is a good day. That is the theme of the texts this week. This world will come to an end. History has a last page, but there is more coming, the new heavens and earth where the righteous dwell. The Lord's people are not afraid of the end. In fact, we long for it. It is the end of what is evil and bad, but the good, the righteous and the right, all that is claimed by the Lord's name, these things endure. We give thanks that the Lord has promised the end of this world, and that He has promised to bring us to the eternal and glorious home of the righteous. *Amen. Come Lord Jesus. Amen.*

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 25:1-13: Faith is Readiness**

Five wise and five foolish virgins. With this parable Jesus calls us to be among the wise, among the ready, among those who have oil in their lamps. What does this mean? What does it mean to be ready for the Lord's return? How can we be prepared for the Last Judgment? Keeping all the commandments? Accomplishing enough good? That will never do. Our only hope is Christ, His mercy, His forgiveness, His suffering and death for our life and salvation. Faith is readiness. We long for the last day because we know that the One coming is the One who came already, the One who loved us, and still loves us. The bridegroom comes, awake! *Amen. Come Lord Jesus. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 103: A Blessed Blessing Soul**

We bless the LORD for all His benefits. What are these? He "forgives all your sins." He "heals your diseases." He "redeems your life from destruction." And that's not all. He "crowns your life with lovingkindness and tender mercies." He "satisfies your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles." And that's not all. "He has not dealt with us according to our sins." He removes our sins. He pities us like a father for his children. He knows our frame. He remembers us. He is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! *O LORD we bless You for Your boundless mercy and Your great love. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; The Coming Comfort**

Fear. That is our normal reaction when imagining the end of the world. Collapsing mountains. Falling stars. Fire in a dark night. But Paul (don't miss the surprise, and the comfort) encourages us. You are not in darkness. The Day will not surprise you. God did not appoint us to destruction or wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Last Day is not a day of horror, not for those whose lives are hidden with God in Christ. It is a Day of Redemption, of Rescue, and of Deliverance. It is not the end, but the beginning of a glorious life without end. *Lord Jesus, continue to comfort and edify us with the hope of Your return in glory. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 65:17-19: The Next Volume**

"For behold," says the LORD, "I create a new heavens and a new earth." It turns out that the Last Day is not the last day, at least is not the end. There is something new on the way, a new heaven and earth, a new and eternal life, a new glory and peace for all who wait for His appearing. We are living in the last chapter of history, but there is another volume, another book: the Adventures of the Resurrection, the Chronicles of Glory, The Righteous Come Home, and every indication we have from the Lord is that things get better. "Behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy." Soon, with an angel shout, the last page will turn, and everything will be made new. *Heavenly Father, enliven us with the hope of the new heavens and earth. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 12:13-21: Spiritual Economics**

The biggest barns will still burn. The largest bank accounts will still come to nothing. The riches of this world will pass away. Death is a market crash. Every account is emptied when you stop breathing. But there is one thing, one investment, that endures through death and lasts past the last day. "The word of the Lord endures forever." The word of God, the name of Jesus, the righteousness of faith, these are locked up in heaven where thieves don't break in and moths don't destroy. Heavenly riches: this is what the Lord Jesus has won for us through His death and resurrection, and we are rich with His redeeming blood. *Oh Lord, set our hearts on heavenly treasures that we would rejoice in Your generosity. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 21:1-7: The Garden City**

The Bible began with a garden and ends with a garden city: the new and heavenly Jerusalem. The home of God is with us. The glory of this city is mostly described by what is not there: no more tears, no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain. These are the former things, the fallen things, and they are gone. No more sin. No more temptation. No more sickness. No more death. No more devil. No more darkness. All will be made new. The One who cannot lie has promised it! The new and eternal garden city is on the way, and we will drink from its fountains and eat from its fruit of life. *Lord, our soul thirsts for Your fountains of life. Bring us through this earthly city to the heavenly Jerusalem, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 27: The One Thing David Longed For...**

We are often found longing and desiring the wrong things, the corrupt things of this world, the evil things of darkness. David helps us. "One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek..." What is this one thing of David's? What is this sola? "...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple." (27:4) David's heart was for the LORD, for His temple, for His presence and promises in life and in death. David longed to see God, to behold His beauty and purity and gentle mercy. And King David has what he longed for. He now stands before the LORD in His glory, and soon we will stand beside him. *Your face, LORD, will I seek. Amen.*