

The Congregation at Prayer

For the week of *Populus Zion* (Advent 2)

Sunday, December 9, 2018 *through* Saturday, December 15, 2018

“The Lord Comes on the Last Day”

Malachi 4:1-6; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-36

The Day on which our Lord returns will be a **“great and awesome day”** (Malachi 4:5). He will come in a cloud with great power and glory. To the wicked and the proud, it will be a Day of Judgment that will **“set them ablaze”** (Malachi 4:1). The signs preceding this Day will bring them fear and fainting. But to those who believe, who fear the Name of the Lord, this Day is one to look forward to and rejoice in: **“. . . straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near”** (Luke 21:28). Christ our Redeemer is coming. The Sun of Righteousness will bring healing in His wings. Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which do not pass away. Let us **“through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures”** (Romans 15:4) be strengthened in our hope by the Holy Spirit and watch diligently for Jesus’ coming. Then, by God’s grace, we shall escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man.

INVOCATION (*make the sign of the holy cross and say*)

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 is seated 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.

PSALM Psalm 50

THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Article IX: Of Baptism

See *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, pp. 35, 152-153

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, December 9: Isaiah 26:1-19
1 John 3:1-24

Monday, December 10: Isaiah 26:20-27:13
1 John 4:1-21

Tuesday, December 11: Isaiah 28:14-29
1 John 5:1-21 [2 *John* 1-13; 3 *John* 1-15]

Wednesday, December 12: Isaiah 29:1-14
Jude 1-25

Thursday, December 13: Isaiah 29:15-30:14
Revelation 1:1-20

Friday, December 14: Isaiah 30:15-26
Revelation 2:1-29

Saturday, December 15: Isaiah 30:27-31:9
Revelation 3:1-22

HYMN

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336:1,3

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for ev'ry sinner slain; Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of His train: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.	Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears, Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshipers. With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!
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PRAYERS

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

MORNING PRAYER

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 PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with us all. Amen.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *Gaudete (Advent 3)*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Matthew 11:2-11

Hymn of the Day

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345