



#### Genesis 1:14-19

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

#### James 1:9-12

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

## Matthew 24:21-44

<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. <sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup> So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

### *The Coming of the Son of Man*

<sup>29</sup> "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

### *The Lesson of the Fig Tree*

<sup>32</sup> "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>34</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### *No One Knows That Day and Hour*

<sup>36</sup> "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

HYMNS: Evening and Morning LSB 726

Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light TLH  
148

**"Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light"**

by Martin Behm, 1557-1622

Translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1878

1. Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light,  
My Strength by day, my Trust by night,  
On earth I'm but a passing guest  
And sorely with my sins opprest.

2. Far off I see my fatherland,  
Where through Thy blood I hope to stand.  
But ere I reach that Paradise,  
A weary way before me lies.

3. My heart sulks at the journey's length,  
My wasted flesh has little strength;  
My soul alone still cries in me:  
"Lord, take me home, take me to Thee!"

4. Oh, let Thy sufferings give me power  
To meet the last and darkest hour!  
Thy blood refresh and comfort me;  
Thy bonds and fetters make me free.

5. Oh, let Thy holy wounds for me  
Clefts in the rock forever be  
Where as a dove my soul can hide  
And safe from Satan's rage abide.

6. And when my spirit flies away,  
Thy dying words shall be my stay.

Thy cross shall be my staff in life,  
Thy holy grave my rest from strife.

7. Lord, in Thy nail-prints let me read  
That Thou to save me hast decreed  
And grant that in Thine opened side  
My troubled soul may ever hide.

8. Since Thou hast died, the Pure, the Just.  
I take my homeward way in trust.  
The gates of heaven, Lord, open wide  
When here I may no more abide.

9. And when the last Great Day shall come  
And Thou, our Judge, shalt speak the doom,  
Let me with joy behold the light  
And set me then upon Thy right.

10. Renew this wasted flesh of mine  
That like the sun it there may shine  
Among the angels pure and bright,  
Yea, like Thyself in glorious light.

11. Ah, then I'll have my heart's desire,  
When, singing with the angels' choir,  
Among the ransomed of Thy grace,  
Forever I'll behold Thy face!

**The Lutheran Hymnal Hymn #148 Text:**

Luke 23:33 Author: Martin Behm, 1610

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8amfCTPkqQ>

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you created the sun, moon and stars on the 4th day. Thank you for sending your Son to redeem your rebellious creation, and open heaven to us. Shine in our hearts with the Light of Christ so that we will never be dismayed by this dark world, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

O God, We also pray for all who are anxious or worried about the Coronavirus. Help those who are sick and strengthen our faith in this time of declared pandemic. Give wisdom to our rulers that they would assess the situation rationally and not hinder our lives as Christians. Give us peace and confidence that You work all things for our eternal good, for the sake of Christ. 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.