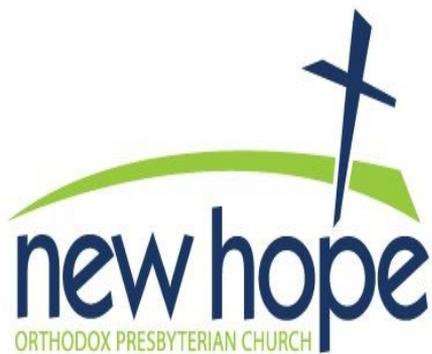


WELCOME!



Worship ~ 10:30 am

# WELCOME!

We are pleased that you are coming to worship at New Hope Presbyterian Church. In order to serve you well, please:

- ***Visit our Welcome Table***
- ***ESV Bibles are available on the welcome table for use during the service***
- ***Turn off the ringer on your electronic devices***
- ***Nursery is available for children up to age 4***
- ***Children's Church is available during the sermon (suggested ages 4-6)***
- ***Large Print bulletins available upon request***
- ***Children's bulletins available at the Welcome Table***
- ***Please fill out a gray visitor card if you are visiting and place it in the offering box***

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## ***Vision of New Hope Presbyterian Church***

New Hope Presbyterian Church  
is a grace and gospel-centered fellowship  
which exists to magnify Jesus Christ  
in the areas of worship, fellowship and outreach.

# Morning Worship

September 4, 2022

## Reflections

*The world we live in is a world of disappointment, a vale of tears; the children of men in it are but of few days, and full of trouble, See the power of God's curse, how it makes all empty, and lays waste all ranks and conditions. Sin brings these calamities upon the earth; it is polluted by the sins of men, therefore it is made desolate by God's judgments. ... Let men learn to mourn for sin, and rejoice in God; then no man, no event, can take their joy from them.*  
~ Matthew Henry

*Our almighty God is on your side, he loves your mission, and he has promised an astonishing triumph in the end.*  
~ John Piper

*The picture Isaiah gives us is one of all nations turned to God in worship, a great banquet for all the peoples, the removal of all suffering and grief and reproach from the nations who have become his people, and the final putting away of death forever. This triumph is sure because God is doing it.*  
~ John Piper

*Not one life spent in the cause of world evangelization is spent in vain. Not one prayer or one dollar or one sermon or one letter of encouragement mailed or one little light shining in some dark place — nothing in the cause of advancing the kingdom is in vain. The triumph is sure.* ~ John Piper

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## Approach to God

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Call to Worship — Hebrews 12:22-24

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

## Hymn of Praise — A Mighty Fortress

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the  
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:

and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 for lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 God's truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er.

# Prayer of Adoration

## Songs of Praise

### Higher Throne

There is a higher throne,  
Than all this world has known,  
Where faithful ones  
from every tongue,  
Will one day come.  
Before the Son we'll stand,  
Made faultless through the Lamb,  
Believing hearts  
find promised grace,  
Salvation comes... (chorus)

*Hear heaven's voices sing,  
Their thunderous anthem rings,  
Through emerald courts,  
and sapphire skies,  
Their praises rise,  
All glory, wisdom, power, strength,  
Thanks and honor are,  
To God, our King,  
who reigns on high.  
Forevermore*

And there, we'll find our home,  
Our life before the throne,  
We'll honor Him, in perfect song,  
Where we belong...  
He'll wipe each tearstained eye,  
As thirst and hunger die,  
The Lamb becomes  
our Shepherd King,  
We'll reign with Him... (chorus)

### Living Waters

Are you thirsty, Are you empty  
Come and drink these living waters  
Tired and broken, Peace unspoken  
Rest beside these living waters

Christ is calling, Find refreshing  
At the cross of living waters  
Lay your life down, All the old gone  
Rise up in these living waters

Chorus:

*There's a river that flows,  
With mercy and love  
Bringing joy to the city of our God  
There our hope is secure, Do not  
fear anymore  
Praise the Lord of living waters*

Spirit moving, Mercy washing  
Healing in these living waters  
Lead your children,  
To the shore line  
Life is in these living waters  
(CHORUS)

Are you thirsty, Are you empty  
Come and drink these living waters  
Love, forgiveness,  
Vast and boundless  
Christ, He is our living waters  
(CHORUS)

**Confession of Sin — Psalm 5:4-6; Romans 6:12-14, 23**

<sup>4</sup>For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;  
evil may not dwell with you.

<sup>5</sup>The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;  
you hate all evildoers.

<sup>6</sup>You destroy those who speak lies;  
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

<sup>12</sup>Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup>Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

<sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Assurance of Pardon — 1 Peter 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Offering\*** — **1 Timothy 6:10-11** <sup>10</sup>*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.* <sup>11</sup>*But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.*

*\*You can give on-line at the New Hope website: [www.newhopeopc.org](http://www.newhopeopc.org) and click on the green "give" button in the corner.*

## **Response in Song — How Long, O Lord, How Long (Psalm 13)**

O Lord, our God, to You we come  
Will You still hide Your face?  
We cry before You and on our knees we pray  
How long, O Lord, how long?

Our sorrows leave us weak and worn  
Surrounded by our fears  
We look to heaven through feeble faith and tears  
How long, O Lord, how long?

### **CHORUS**

*Till Your glory fills our eyes  
And our faith is turned to sight  
Till our thirsty souls are satisfied  
How long, O Lord, how long?*

Our foes and enemies rejoice  
Injustice seems to reign  
Lord, we are shaken and we are losing strength  
How long, O Lord, how long? (chorus)

But we will trust Your steadfast love  
Your grace will be our song  
You bring new mercies with ev'ry rising sun  
How long, O Lord, how long? (chorus)

## **Commitment** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Congregational Prayer**

*Children's Church Dismissal — Children ages 4-5 may be dismissed to children's church at parents' discretion*

### **Sermon Text — Isaiah 24:1-10, 25:6-9**

**24** <sup>1</sup>Behold, the LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate,  
and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.

<sup>2</sup>And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest;

as with the slave, so with his master;  
as with the maid, so with her mistress;

as with the buyer, so with the seller;  
as with the lender, so with the borrower;  
as with the creditor, so with the debtor.

<sup>3</sup> The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered;  
for the LORD has spoken this word.

<sup>4</sup> The earth mourns and withers;  
the world languishes and withers;  
the highest people of the earth languish.

<sup>5</sup> The earth lies defiled  
under its inhabitants;  
for they have transgressed the laws,  
violated the statutes,  
broken the everlasting covenant.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore a curse devours the earth,  
and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt;  
therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched,  
and few men are left.

<sup>7</sup> The wine mourns,  
the vine languishes,  
all the merry-hearted sigh.

<sup>8</sup> The mirth of the tambourines is stilled,  
the noise of the jubilate has ceased,  
the mirth of the lyre is stilled.

<sup>9</sup> No more do they drink wine with singing;  
strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

<sup>10</sup> The wasted city is broken down;  
every house is shut up so that none can enter.

**25** <sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,  
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

<sup>7</sup> And he will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.

<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,  
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.  
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

## **Sermon — Judgment Day: Will You Feast or Fall?**

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

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# Judgement Day:

## Will You Feast or Fall?

Isaiah 24:1-10, 25:6-9

### 1. The City of Man (24:1-10)

*Applications: Consider God's justice and what your sins deserve. Flee the coming wrath by trusting Jesus. Hold this world's treasures loosely because they are not eternal. Fight any sins, or sinful habits you have made peace with. Pray for the lost.*

### 2. The City of God (25:6-9)

*Applications: Think about eternity with Jesus. Let that future joy produce contentment today. Put your sorrows and the sting of death in context of v 8-9. Cut poor priorities and time-sucks and invest in knowing/living for God.*

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## **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

*Everyone should have a prepackaged bread and juice. It is not gluten free. If you do not have a prepacked container, please raise your hand at this time to allow the elders to come serve you.*

### **Closing Song — We Will Feast in the House of Zion**

*Chorus: We will feast in the house of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more*

We will not be burned by the fire  
He is the LORD our God  
We are not consumed, by the flood  
Upheld, protected, gathered up

In the dark of night, before the dawn  
My soul, be not afraid  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed  
You are the Faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together, bring shalom.

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

# THANK YOU FOR SERVING

## **10:30 am**

Welcome Team: Monte Festog, Dustin Mixon, Calvin Wright  
Toddler Nursery: Katrina Howard, Sue Bridenbaugh, Samantha VanDelden  
Infant Nursery: Dawn Myers  
Children's Church: Annie Kim, Natalie Bohannon, Cora Kim  
Sound: Jim Washburne  
Live Stream: Lance Duvall

## **Serving Next Week**

## **9:30 am**

Welcome Team: Mary Troxel, Marc Quist (early team)  
Jeff & Kim Jernigan (late team)  
SS Nursery: Ronnie Socash, Steve Hake

## **10:30 am**

Toddler Nursery: Valory Snyder, Joli & Haley Chism  
Infant Nursery: Joy Nichols  
Children's Church: Karen Ochs, Liesl Boyed, Elsie Hake  
Sound: Ed Wright  
Live Stream: John Godoy

# THIS WEEK AT NEW HOPE

**Today**                      **Senior Growth Group**, meeting today after the worship service in the overflow room

**Tuesday**                    **Session Meeting**, 7:00 pm in C8

**Saturday**                   **Men's Ministry**, 8-10 am at the church, viewing "Dust to Glory" and discussing.

# COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

## **Our Church Family**

- Pray for Tim, Claudia, and Carson Rigg as they adjust to their new home in PA. Give thanks for their time here at New Hope, for their willingness to serve and love the church family, and for the blessing that they have been.
- Pray for the upcoming Sunday school trimester that begins next week. Give thanks for all who have so willingly volunteered to give of their time to teach. Pray that all that attend Sunday school will grow in faith and grace as they hear more about God's word.
- Pray for the ministries of New Hope as we resume most activities this month. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance and for plenty of volunteers!
- Pray for a good turn out and growth for the Wednesday Night Bible study when it resumes September 14.
- Pray that the New Hope session will lead the church well with wisdom and grace.
- Give thanks for all who volunteer their time on Sundays morning so that we can worship well together.
- Pray for Liesl Boyed, Hannah Beck, Emily Howard Zavala, and Jamie Lindsey who are expecting new little ones. Pray for the continued health and safety of both moms and babies.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling: those who are suffering from the effects of abuse, are grieving the loss of loved ones, are suffering with dementia or other chronic illnesses, are fighting cancer, or any other difficult trial.

## **Frederick Area**

- Pray for the missions that we support financially: CareNet Pregnancy Center, Child Evangelism Fellowship, and the Frederick Rescue Mission. Pray that God will continue to provide for all their needs.
- Pray that the Lord will give us opportunities to share the gospel and that we will act upon those opportunities.

## **Missionaries & Others**

- Pray for our mission of the month: Stephen and Cataline Payson who are newly serving in Uruguay. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and direct their steps as they settle into their new home and labors.
- Continue to pray for Luke Hake as he serves in East Asia. Pray for wisdom and faithfulness particularly as his comprehension of the language increases and he interacts more and more with the locals. Pray that the Lord will help him carve out time each week for rest and soul refreshment in fellowship with other believers.
- Pray for Kristen who is serving in Europe with Serge, International. Pray that the Lord would provide ways in which she and her team can invite people to church and share the gospel with them.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Crafty Ladies Wanted**, The women's ministry team is looking for women who are crafty! They would like to have a fall craft to do during the Fall ladies brunch this October 22. If you would like to help out or have ideas they would love to hear from you. Please contact either Joy Nichols ([joy.lynn.nichols@gmail.com](mailto:joy.lynn.nichols@gmail.com)), Ann Burden ([annburd6656@gmail.com](mailto:annburd6656@gmail.com)), or Rosemarie Festog ([festogr@hotmail.com](mailto:festogr@hotmail.com)).

**Sunday School**, the upcoming Fall Sunday School trimester will begin next Sunday, September 11th at 9:30 am. Mark your calendars! Look below to know what classes will be offered next trimester:

- PS & PK: taught by Annie Kim and Megan Quist
- K-2nd grade: Hannah Graf & Emily Jernigan
- 3rd-5th grade: Elisa Godoy & Rachel Kobe
- Middle School: Ann Burden & Gingy Socash
- High School: Dave Myers, Kyle Graf & Dawn Myers
- Adult: Zack Martin will be teaching in the sanctuary on Covenant Theology. Here is a summary of the class: *Covenant theology will explore the centrality of covenants within the biblical narrative as God's means for establishing and maintaining relations with His people. The class will consider the ways in which each instance of covenant-making throughout the biblical narrative further elaborates on God's plan of redemption in Jesus Christ throughout the history of Israel, in addition to reflecting on the implications of covenant theology for the Christian life today. Jonty Rhode's Covenants Made Simple will serve as the main text for the class. Books will be available to purchase for the class beginning this week. They will be on the welcome table.*

**New Bible Study starting**, New Hope is planning to start a women's study Wednesday mornings 9:30am-11am This study will include childcare for children up to 5yo. Please email Rachel Neahusan [rappachel@gmail.com](mailto:rappachel@gmail.com) if you have interest and how many kids you plan to bring. We hope to get more details out in the coming weeks.

**High School Mission Trip**, we are looking ahead to the summer of 2023 and the annual mission trip to the Boardwalk Chapel in Wildwood, NJ. We need to put down a reservation deposit and need to have an idea of how many are interested in going. The week is July 8-15 and anyone in grade 8-12 is welcome to go. Please contact Ann Burden ([annburd6656](mailto:annburd6656)) or Gingy Socash ([admin@newhopeopc.org](mailto:admin@newhopeopc.org)) if you want more information or have any interest in going.

**Take a Moment to Greet the Rigg family!** Tim & Claudia Rigg and family are visiting this week with hopes to say a fond farewell to the New Hope Church family. Tim & Claudia have been members for quite a while and have recently moved to PA. Please take a moment to greet them when you see them today!

*(Continued on page 14)*

**Highlighting Bible Studies**, take a moment to read through the Bible studies being offered this fall through New Hope:

- **Saturday morning men's study**, there is a Men's Saturday morning Bible study that meets at the church every Saturday from 8am til 10am. Light snacks and coffee served. Currently studying R.C. Sproul video series "Dust to Glory. There is no childcare/children's study provided. Men ages 16 and above invited to participate. Contact Monte Festog at 301 471-9424 or my email at [Festogm@hotmail.com](mailto:Festogm@hotmail.com)
- **Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible study**, restarting studies on Sept. 14 in the upper conference room located in the office building (C8). Meetings run from 10 a.m. until 11:30 - 11:45 a.m. Meetings include a Bible study of approx. 45 min and a time of prayer for approx. 45 min. Studying 1-3 John, a 12 week study, by Michael LeFebvre; theological editor J.I. Packer. Ladies are in the 55+ age group. All ages are welcome, but no child care is provided. Contact Jackie Plowman (301-834-6489; [jack72plow@gmail.com](mailto:jack72plow@gmail.com)) for any questions.
- **Wednesday morning women's study #2**, meeting at church in the main building on Wednesdays 9:30-11. Studying the book of Mark. Childcare/children's study provided will be provided for ages birth-5 years old. Contact information if someone is interested or wants to know more? Amy Wright ([amy.r.dewit@gmail.com](mailto:amy.r.dewit@gmail.com)) or Rachel Neahun ([rappachel@gmail.com](mailto:rappachel@gmail.com))
- **Thursday Night Ladies' Zoom Bible Study**, meeting every Thursday except the third Thursday of the month, Ladies Night Out, at 7pm via Zoom. It is a low key study, perfect for busy women. Feel free to join the call whenever you can, sometimes ladies are eating dinner during our study. We rotate leading among anyone who is interested, it is not required to lead. We meet in person for socials from time to time. We have not finalized our topic for the fall yet. We start our new study Thursday September 22. Contact Monica Laird [monlaird@gmail.com](mailto:monlaird@gmail.com) or 410 963-6522 with questions or for more information.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study**, beginning Sept. 14th, 6:00-7:30 pm, Why go to the Wednesday night Bible study? It's for EVERYONE from nursery aged through adult. It is a opportunity to live out God's call to grow in maturity and Christlikeness from our youngest all the way to our oldest.

**Highlighting New Hope Growth Groups**, growth groups are the backbone of our fellowship at New Hope. Growth groups meet throughout the area. They include worship, Bible study, fellowship, prayer, and mission. They offer fellowship, encouragement, support, and accountability. If you would like to try one of our growth groups that are meeting this week, you can just show up or contact the person who is leading.

- **John/Patrice Jastrzembki** (240.321.4562): this group meets the second Sunday (right after church) with a potluck luncheon and the fourth Friday (@6:30pm with appetizers); rotate hosting at one another's homes. Currently studying Psalms. Couples and singles and could add 3-4 new people. No childcare. Call Patrice at the above number for details.

- **Francis VanDelden** (240.440.4580): the second Sunday from 6-7:30, welcome to arrive early and stay later for fellowship. fourth Sunday 5:30pm for potluck, study and prayer afterward. Mixed ages, couples, singles, children welcome. Location varies.
- **Bruce Johnson** (574.780.6482): 2nd & 4th Sunday evenings. Meeting at the church in C6 from 4-6 pm. This group typically dives into a topic derived from the preaching or the text that has been preached on. They usually have snacks before or after the meeting and sometimes have a planned meal together. They have many children in their group and welcome more. Some in the group spends time with the children when needed but not in the meeting room. The children join in for the opening worship time. This group labors to be more than just a “meet twice a month” group and interpersonal relationship development is something they desire and strive for. They are intentional to be clear about God’s word having authority over us and sharing about His ongoing work in their lives.
- **Joel Poortenga** (828.489.6624)/**Steve Ochs** (240.422.4130): 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at about 1:00 pm. Couples and singles; children welcome. They share a meal (usually everyone brings a dish to share), and sometimes do a short kids lesson, then the kids go play and the adults do a study and prayer time. They are currently studying a parenting book. They mostly have couples with kids, though singles and older people and anyone else who wants to come is welcome! Location TBA
- **Dave Myers** (304.820.2814): 2nd and 4th Sundays at 12:30 at church in overflow room. Typically couples and singles in their 50s and older but welcome all ages. Bring a bag lunch.
- **Senior Growth Group**, Jackie Plowman (301.834.6489)/**Dave Myers** (304.820.2814): 1st Sunday of the month in the overflow room following the worship service; elder members and attendees. Everyone brings a bag lunch and dessert is usually provided by members in turn. Meeting next on September 4th.
- **Monte & Rosemarie Festog** (301.471.9424); Every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Festog’s house in Myersville area. (We will take rest months off) Will determine subject of discussion once a group is formed but will likely be a video series, a book, or short devotionals or a combination of these. Child-care is not available. We are looking for more of an uninterrupted, focused group dynamic. Snacks are optional and flexible. We are relatively new to the church and are looking to “dive deep” with a few fellow sojourners into our faith and love for Christ. Doing life together, speaking into each others lives the promises of God, learning from one another and scripture, praying for one another and simply building relationship within the household of faith. We are currently looking for about 6-8 more people to join us make this a reality, but hey a couple people and we’re on our way. A few can be as many if they be mighty!
- **Dennis Caruso** (240.285.0019); restarting this fall and looking for new members. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Dennis at the number above.

# DAILY DEVOTION

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 11:5** <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

**Westminster Larger Catechism 90** — At the day of judgment, the righteous... shall be received into heaven where they shall be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery; filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul... but especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity.

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**Monday:** According to Isaiah 24:1-4, 8-10, what will happen to the City of Man (cf 2 Pet 3:5-7, 10)? Will any escape giving account in the judgment of God (v 2, 1 Pet 4:5)? What will you say to God on judgment day? Are you making peace with your sins and bad habits, or are you turning to God in repentance? What is the only way to escape this judgment (Is 53:6, Ps 51:1-3)?

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 24:4-7. Why has God decreed a day of judgment (vv 4-7)? Where does the cause of this destruction lie (v 6, Is 6:5, Rom 3:9-12, 6:23)? Is this only an Old Testament thing (Mt 25:41-43, 7:13, 27)? What effect should this have on you today (2 Pet 3:9, 11)? Are you moving toward or away from this City of Man? What evidence is there that you're living for God? Pray about this and plan to grow.

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-9. How is the City of God (eternity with God) portrayed here? Compare these verses to Ex 24:9-11, Mt 26:27-29, Rev 19:7-9. How does an abundance of great food picture deep the satisfaction of life with Jesus (Jn 6:51)? How does aged wine picture true delight and joy we will have in Jesus (Jn 3:29)? Spend some time meditating on the joy and satisfaction we have in Jesus' person and work.

**Thursday:** Is 25:6-8. How has Jesus already swallowed up sorrow and death for the believer (1 Cor 15:54)? Take a moment to praise God for that. What aspects of these will be fully swallowed on the last day (Rev 21:4)? Look at the bursting praise in v 9 -this is the true glory of that day. Think of 3 ways heaven should impact you today (e.g. v 9, 1 Tim 6:18f, 1 Pet 3:7 'heirs with you,' 1 Pet 1:14f).

**Friday:** Is 25:9 says "the waiting for God to fulfill his promise is more than worth is, so wait! (See Mt 25:10, 13)." How are you actively preparing for, living for eternity? How is eternity shaping you now? Is your life/family centered around God and his church, or more around sports, entertainment, music? How easily does Sunday morning worship get sacrificed for other things? What crowds our time for prayer? With the Spirit of God in you, press into the Kingdom with all strength, "all the more as you see the day approaching" (Heb 10:25)!

**Saturday:** What does Isaiah 26:3 mean? Have you experienced this?