

“The Lord’s Call to Follow Him”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 31:2-3, 1, 5, 9, 16**

Be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defense to | save me.*
 For You are my rock and my | fortress.
 Therefore, for Your | name’s sake,*
 lead me and | guide me.
 In You, O Lord, I put my trust; let me never | be ashamed;*
 deliver me in Your | righteousness.
 Into Your hand I commit my | spirit;*
 You have redeemed me, O Lord | God of truth.
 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in | trouble;*
 my eye wastes a- | way with grief.
 Make Your face shine upon Your | servant;*
 save me for Your | mercies’ sake.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 27:14**

“Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we implore You, mercifully hear our prayers, and, having set us free from the bonds of sin, defend us from all evil; for You live and reign with the Father 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
Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

TLH 409, LSB 685
 Sigismund von Birken



1. Let us ever walk with Jesus
 Follow His example pure,
 Flee the world, which would deceive us
 And to sin our souls allure,
 Ever in His footsteps treading,
 Body here, yet soul above,
 Full of faith and hope and love,
 Let us do the Father’s bidding.
 Faithful Lord, abide with me;
 Savior, lead, I follow Thee.

2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,
 To His image, e’er conform:
 Heaven’s glory soon will please us,
 Sunshine follow on the storm.
 Though we sow in tears of sorrow,

We shall reap with heavenly joy;
 And the fears that now annoy
 Shall be laughter on the morrow.
 Christ, I suffer here with Thee;
 There, oh, share Thy joy with me!

4. Let us gladly live with Jesus;
 Since He’s risen from the dead,
 Death and grave must soon release us.
 Jesus, Thou art now our Head,
 We are truly Thine own members:
 Where Thou livest, there live we.
 Take and own us constantly,
 Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.
 Jesus, here I live to Thee,
 Also there eternally.

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 Lord's Call to Follow Him**

As Lent begins, we fix our eyes upon the cross of Christ where we find an answer to our sin, our death, and the power of the devil. The fruits of this cross do not remain trapped in history but are continually delivered through Word and Sacrament. From its fruits come our prayers, our understanding, and our hope. In the suffering and death of Jesus, we find satisfaction of the law's demands, and the courage to wait for the fullness of the resurrection. Lent is not a time to look inward for hope. Look inward to see what is wrong, then look outward to the cross to see how our Lord answers in mercy.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 18:31-43 Prayer is about Comfort**

Prayer cannot be understood apart from Christ's passion. The prayer of the blind man asking for sight is not an indication Jesus needs to be asked. The answer is not contingent on asking, but on the mercy of God. Jesus, the son of David, is merciful. Before the man could ask, Jesus took flesh to bear the cross for those under the bondage of sin and death. God is not too busy to hear your prayer. He answers from the cross: "It is finished." Prayer is not about convincing God to help, but finding comfort in the truth that He already has. *O LORD, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise. Fix my hope upon the cross, that I would find comfort in all my needs of body and soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 26 God places His love before our eyes**

God places His steadfast love before our eyes. He gives us the gospel of Christ crucified. It declares us holy. It lets us stand before the Lord with hope instead of terror. It lets us find shelter in His house, at His altar. He forgives our sins and places us on level ground that we can walk in His faithfulness. The good Christians are rooted in the washing of innocence, the help found on His altar, and the truth of His glorious deeds. It keeps us free to live with integrity. *O LORD, let me always find shelter and mercy in Your house before Your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Love is Jesus**

Love is not a feeling that comes and goes. It is an action. We prefer feelings because sometimes I can be patient. To some people, I can be kind. Old Adam searches the scriptures for himself and tries to massage them to fit the mold. He can only try because this kind of love is beyond us. Replace love with Jesus and it makes more sense. Jesus is patient and kind. Jesus does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but truth, yet even bears all things, even your sins upon the cross. He endures even this for you. *O LORD, let me always search the scriptures for You that I may share your love to my neighbor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 6:16-21 Fasting doesn't earn your way to Jesus, but points to Him**

We give up the hymns of the angels for lent. We reflect upon how things are going. That is why we fast. Fasting doesn't save us, but it shows us where our treasures are. The ashes remind us that our treasures won't last. We are dust. Your savior can raise dust though. Your losses are His reproach. Your restorations, His glory. Jesus is your treasure in heaven and You are His treasure on earth. Lent is not fasting your way to Him, but the realization that you need Him to descend to save you. So, look to the cross where He is. *O LORD, fix my heart in heaven by Your treasures of word and sacrament on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 12:23-36 Jesus is the grain of wheat**

Jesus is the grain of wheat, descended from heaven to be glorified upon the cross. He dies and bears much fruit: forgiveness, life, salvation. He is lifted up again. It is what casts out the ruler of this world. United to His death in baptism, we follow Him through to His resurrection. It shows what God's glory really looks like. It isn't measured in miracles which we covet to extend our lives in this world, but the cross which wins for us eternal life. *O LORD, remind me Your glory is not in power, but in mercy, not in strength, but in Your cross, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 3:18-22 Baptism now saves you**

In this world, you will not find God apart from suffering. You find Him on the cross for you. That does not just change how we see suffering. It changes how we see ourselves. Jesus did not bear the cross for those who were zealous for what is good. He bore the cross for the people who got what they deserve, who suffer for doing evil, for the sinners, for us, the baptized. We are kept in salvation of a loving God in the same way Noah was kept on the ark. *O LORD, keep us safe and steadfast in the ark of Your church that we would have salvation through water in Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 27 The Lord gives us specifics**

The Lord gives us specifics. Light that conquers darkness. A house that grants us protection. Answers to our cries. They are met in Jesus, the light set on the hill of Calvary. We find Him in word and sacrament in His church. His liturgy is His word as the answers to our cries to Him, spoken before we could ever utter them. It is the way of the Lord. The cross, then the empty tomb, the land of the living, the resurrection. If you are not there yet, wait in the specifics the Lord gives you and take courage. *O LORD, hide me in Your shelter in the day of trouble, teach me Your way, and keep me in courage as I wait for Your last great day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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