

**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 **Luke 18:31**

And taking the twelve, He said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished"

**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



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| <p>1. Let us ever walk with Jesus,<br/>Follow His example pure,<br/>Flee the world, which would deceive us<br/>And to sin our souls allure.<br/>Ever in His footsteps treading,<br/>Body here, yet soul above,<br/>Full of faith and hope and love,<br/>Let us do the Father's bidding.<br/>Faithful Lord, abide with me;<br/>Savior, lead, I follow Thee.</p> | <p>We shall reap with heavenly joy;<br/>And the fears that now annoy<br/>Shall be laughter on the morrow.<br/>Christ, I suffer here with Thee;<br/>There, oh, share Thy joy with me!</p>  |
| <p>2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,<br/>To His image, e'er conform;<br/>Heaven's glory soon will please us,<br/>Sunshine follow on the storm.<br/>Though we sow in tears of sorrow,</p>   | <p>4. Let us gladly live with Jesus;<br/>Since He's risen from the dead,<br/>Death and grave must soon release us.<br/>Jesus, Thou art now our Head,<br/>We are truly Thine own members;<br/>Where Thou livest, there live we.<br/>Take and own us constantly,<br/>Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.<br/>Jesus, here I live to Thee,<br/>Also there eternally.</p> |



**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 we move into Lent proper, God's Word reminds us this week of why Jesus went to Jerusalem: to die on the cross and be resurrected three days later. Even those closest to Jesus did not understand this at first. God gives to His Church the Holy Spirit so that we may, through the preaching of the Apostles, understand these things rightly. Jesus died for sinners, suffering the punishment that is ours by our many sins. Despite the fact that we were at enmity with God, He has shown us love by delivering His body over to death for us. In this way, He prepares imperishable treasures for us in His kingdom, which are ours, even now, in Holy Baptism.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 18:31-43: The Seeing are Blind, but the Blind See**

As Jesus approaches Jerusalem in order to suffer and die, He makes His third passion prediction stating just that. But even after hearing this three times the disciples still don't understand. It appears that God Himself hid the meaning from them, in order for Jesus to be completely rejected on His way to the cross. Seeing, they do not see. Ironically, Jesus encounters blind Bartimaeus, who can see Jesus for who He really is: the Son of David—Israel's Messiah as foretold by the prophets.

*O Lord, grant us, who are so blinded by our sin, to behold Your Son, Jesus Christ, as our true light and Savior from every trouble and need. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 26: Wash Me in Righteousness**

Psalms 26 is a prophecy given to David of the Christ. We know from the Scriptures that David did not walk in integrity before the Lord. Only Christ can pray this Psalm and mean it. He alone has a heart that can stand up to the Lord's judgments, and He alone walks after the Lord in perfect faithfulness. On the other hand, David (and we sinners, too) may pray this psalm, realizing that we have been washed in the innocence of Christ in Baptism. Through this washing of regeneration, God gives us His Holy Spirit, that we might walk in newness of life, avoiding the snare of sin laid before us. *O Lord, continually cleanse us in the innocent blood of Christ, that we may tell all of Your wondrous deeds. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13: What is love?**

Young couples in love often pick this reading for their wedding, thinking it describes the love they have for one another. And yet, this passage describes the love God has for us in His Son, Jesus Christ, who endured all things as we read on Sunday in order that we would not perish eternally. This love of God comes to us through the Word of God, which gives us the Truth incarnate—Jesus Christ. The Scriptures all testify to Him, who is God's love come down to earth to rescue us from sin and death. *O Lord, grant us to know You as You have revealed Yourself to us in Your Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 6:16-21: Ash Wednesday**

Today marks the beginning of Lent, which is historically a period of fasting for Christians. Much of what it means to truly fast is lost on us moderns, as we lament giving up soda or chocolate. The real question, though, ought to be, "Why fast at all?" With these words, Jesus commends fasting to us as a salutary practice—almost as if He expects us to do so. This fasting should be done with an eye toward disciplining the flesh. We do not live by bread alone, but by the Word that proceeds from God. We are to seek first His kingdom and righteousness, and we may do so confidently, knowing that He will provide us with what we need in both body and soul. *O Lord, teach us to discipline our bodies that sin may not reign in our members. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 12:23-36: Death and Resurrection**

Jesus must be lifted up on the cross. It is a Divine necessity. By His death, He brings life. What is sown in weakness is raised in power and glory. We get such a glimpse of this every time a child is baptized. That child, so helpless, is joined to the death of Jesus. The ruler of this world is cast out as the devil, his works, and his ways are renounced and must give way to the work of the Holy Spirit. There, in the font, Christ makes sons of darkness into sons of light, who are buried with Him and will be raised with Him on the last day. *O Lord, keep us in the covenant of our Baptism, that we may face the evils of sin and death without fear. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 3:18-22: Baptized into Christ's Righteousness**

At Baptism, we are clothed with Christ, the very righteousness of God. God has promised here that Baptism saves us, and so it does. No matter how much the devil, the world, and our sinful nature would like to get around these words, they cannot. This means that Baptism must be God's work, and not ours, because our works do not save. This Baptism gives us a good conscience before God, which means that every sin that plagues us, especially those ones the devil parades in front of us, are forgiven. Christ died for them, and that death is subjected to His reign. *O Lord, even as You drowned wicked men in the flood, so also You saved Noah and his family. In the waters of Baptism, drown our Old Adam and save us by Your grace. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 27: Evildoers Assail Me**

Tomorrow, the Church begins the season of Lent and continues her annual march to the cross. We will hear how Satan assailed Christ in the wilderness, even as he assailed Adam in the Garden and Israel in the wilderness—even as he assails us today. But Christ is our conquering Lord. He defeated the devil at the temptation by the power of His Word and at the cross by the blood He shed for you. Even though this mighty foe is encamped against us, Christ is our mighty fortress who holds the field forever. The kingdom ours remaineth. *O Lord, hide me in Your shelter and conceal me under the cover of Your tent, that we may sing Your praises in the land of the living. Amen.*