

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 John 12:26

"If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."

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.



"The Lord's Call to Follow Him"

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**

This week, we will consider what it means to follow the Lord. We will see that following Him is an active living out of the faith we have been given. But more than that, we see that as we follow the Lord, He leads us well. He gives us blessings and strengthens us as we follow after Him. Ultimately, we follow Him and find Him where He promises to be – in Word and Sacrament ministry that He has given to His Church. May the Lord bless you this week in your following of Him!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 18:31-43 – Following Jesus When We Don't Understand**

In the reading, we see Jesus predicting His death to the disciples. He is telling them about this wonderful thing that He is going to do for not just them, but for all people, including you. And yet, they didn't understand Him. They couldn't see it. Then we see the blind man who literally could see nothing. And yet, he called to the Lord for mercy. And because He is merciful, Jesus restores the man's sight. There are often times that we cannot see what the Lord is doing. But like the disciples, we stay with Him. And like the blind man, we cry out for mercy from Christ, who is gracious and who abides with us, even when we don't understand everything. *Almighty God, bless me that I might continue to follow You and trust You in all things. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 26 – Walking Before the Lord**

This Psalm is full of active words. The speaker extols his walking before the Lord rather than sitting with sinners. This is a helpful expression to think upon. To follow Jesus means that we actually go somewhere. One cannot follow the leader by standing still. And so, we go where our Lord is. We follow where He goes. And where do we find Him? We find Him at the Altar. We find Him in the Font. We find Him in the proclaimed Word. We find Him always where He has promised to be. The paradox of the Christian life is one of passively receiving the gifts of God, but also one of actively following after Him and returning to His table often. *Almighty God, bless me as I walk before You. May my steps remain in the paths of righteousness upon which You have set my feet. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – Following in Love**

Part of this text is often read at weddings, but it has a higher purpose. It is not speaking of romantic love. It is speaking of a higher kind of love. A love that moves us to show care for our neighbors. A love that leads us to honesty, kindness, and gentleness with our neighbor. It is a love that was first modeled for us by our Lord Jesus Christ. The love of man is nothing when not taught and shaped by the love of Christ for His people. So let us truly examine the love that is lauded by our world or in our hearts and examine it in the light of Christ, seeking to follow after Him and His love first. *O Lord, You have loved me greatly. Bless me that I might love my neighbor as You would have me do. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 6:16-21 – Following Quietly**

Rarely do we fast in our culture unless we are directed to do so by a doctor. But fasting was a common practice for Jesus and for Christians in general for centuries. Of course, this is not to be done as a production, but something done quietly. Our following of Jesus is not something done for others. It isn't done to gain the accolades or respect of men. We follow Jesus because that is what it means to be His disciple, and only He needs to see the extent of our faith lived out. In this way, we recognize that the true treasures and good that we seek is not found here, but will be received when we stand in the Lord's presence. *O Lord, please direct me to see the treasures that You have stored up for me that I may follow You rather than seeking the goods of the world. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 12:23-36 – Following to the Cross**

We know that these words of Jesus have been fulfilled. They were fulfilled in all of the bloody glory of the cross. Indeed, because He has been lifted up, He calls us to Himself. This is what it means to follow Jesus. We go where He is. We are drawn to Him. We are drawn to the suffering servant who bled and died for us. The Holy Spirit works to beckon us toward Jesus. He told us that He is the light of the world, and so He is. It is by Him that we find our way, walking in the light as we follow Him throughout our lives. *O God, You have given me the light to see Your glory. Bless me that I may follow You in this path now and always. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 3:18-22 – Following Through Water into Heaven**

This text is a favorite for Lutherans because it rightly and clearly proclaims the work of God in Baptism. Through the waters of Baptism, we are made to be God's children. As we saw yesterday, Jesus tells us that those who follow Him go where He is. For this reason, as we are reminded that our Lord sits at the right hand of the Father, we have full confidence that for those who die in faith, heaven awaits us as well. We do not stop following Jesus even when we breathe our last. What's more, we will follow Jesus even when He returns. We will be resurrected and walk once more before the Lord as His servants. *Almighty God, You have claimed me through the waters of Baptism. Guide me to follow You now and forever. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 27 – Following into Shelter and into Battle**

Here, we are reminded of the protection that the Lord grants to his servants as we follow him. He is our stronghold, our fortress in which we find our protection. But this divine protection is not limited to only a singular place. Rather, it is ours even as we go before our enemies. Our faithful God leads us before our enemies on a level path. We follow Him as He goes into battle for us. And we know that in Christ, the victory over our greatest enemies of sin, death, and the devil have all been soundly defeated. If they have been defeated by our Lord, what more do we have to fear? *O Lord, guide and protect me, giving me confidence in the victory that is mine for it is yours first. Amen.*