

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



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.



Around the Word Devotions + February 11-17, 2018

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"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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of February 11-17, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord's Call to Follow Him

A good boss will be a leader who will stretch the people following him to reach even further than they thought possible. He will guide them and cause them to be the best they can be. Apparently Jesus hasn't taken a recent leadership course. When He calls people to follow Him He calls them to "pick up their cross" and follow Him. Jesus travels to Jerusalem and finally to Calvary where we find what the cross means: salvation through death. Jesus suffers death so that those with faith in Him would follow Him right to gates of paradise to enter through them and be with Him forever.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:31-43 Accomplished and Finished

Jesus has His eyes focused on the cross. He tells the twelve that what the prophets wrote will be accomplished. 'Accomplished' is the same word He uses when He says, "It is finished" on the cross. The fulfillment of the prophecies is the death of the Lamb of God. As the season of Lent begins this week we keep our eyes focused on the cross. We recognize that the things we give up or the sacrifices we make are because of how great the event of the cross is for us. *Dear Jesus, thank You for fulfilling all the prophets' words and cause me to rejoice in Your salvation. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 26 Walking in Integrity

The path that a Christian walks with Christ is rife with temptations to desert the path and walk with Satan instead. The way of holiness is the lonely way. The Psalm of David highlights this. There are those who sit in falsehood, there are hypocrites, there are evildoers and the wicked. All of them would entice you away from Christ. As you journey with Christ to paradise, He protects you and gives you the way of integrity to walk. You walk with Christ with your sins forgiven and the Spirit guiding you to deeper holiness. *O Lord, guide my feet to walk in the way of integrity, forsaking the ways of the evildoer. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Way of Love

God is love (1 John 4:8). We remember this as we read the passage about the many things love is. While we strive to walk in love (Ephesians 5:2) as Christ has loved us, our love will always be imperfect and failing. The love of God covers the entire multitude of our sins. Jesus endures the consequences of your sins and abides with you by His gracious mercy. Being with God in His Word and Sacrament and receiving His love causes you to walk in this way of love, loving your neighbor as yourself. *Lord of love, cause me to love sacrificially as You have loved me. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:16-21 Bearing Your Burden

On this Ash Wednesday you may receive ashes on your forehead. They are a reminder to you that you bear the consequences of sin in your body. The ashes are a sign of death and serve to tell you that you are condemned in your sins. However the sign of your sins is in the shape of the cross to remind you that Jesus has borne your sin on the cross and you are redeemed. Simultaneously sinner and saint, you bear more than the burden of death, you have the gift of life in Christ Jesus. *Dear Jesus, thank You for bearing my sin so that I may be free to worship You without fear. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 12:23-36 Serving Jesus

To be a servant, you must be with the one whom you serve. Jesus invites you to not only serve Him but also to follow Him. During this season of Lent you will follow Jesus and listen to Him and watch Him, through Holy Scripture, journey to the cross. You will learn the way of service by following the One who came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. Following Jesus, you find that you serve Him when you fulfill all of your vocations in God-pleasing ways. *Father in heaven, give me the grace and courage to follow Jesus and serve my neighbor. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:18-22 Carrying Water through Life

The call to follow Jesus isn't just about doing things, but first and foremost the call to follow Jesus means that you will carry your baptismal water with you. This pail of the water of forgiveness is poured over your head when you sin against God and against your conscience. Jesus has died and been raised because you are unrighteous. He continually bestows His righteousness upon you when you remember your baptism. You return to your baptism every day, and are washed anew with the blood of Jesus. *Dear Father, Thank You for calling me Your child in Holy Baptism and forgiving me all my sins. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 The Lord's Level Path

Hiking a mountain is exhausting work. You have to be sure of your footing and the change in incline or elevation wears out a body. As we follow Jesus, this Psalm prays that the Lord would make our way a level path. By our own sins we will sometimes make our path harder but God's way is taught to us in His Word. Listen to Holy Scripture and you will know the level path that leads to the cross, the empty grave and at last to eternal paradise. *O Lord, teach me Your way and lead me on a level path. Amen.*

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