



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 27:1**

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?”

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**

To follow Jesus is to believe in Him and His salvation. Sure, this will then lend itself to a greater understanding of His Law. Certainly, this will guide me in service to my neighbor through the love that I have for him. But none of that brings me salvation. None of that earns me a better place before God. I am called to follow Jesus and that means, more than anything, that He will lead me. His cross and Passion, my Baptism into that cross, is my true identity. I am a child of God, a forgiven sinner, a dead man made alive once again. To follow Jesus, to heed His call, means that I am a baptized sinner whose life is in Christ.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 18:31-43—Talking About Death and Resurrection Again**

Jesus sounds like a broken record. But it doesn't matter, the disciples still don't get it. They hear His Words. They've heard them before. They could repeat them verbatim. But they don't understand. And this is because Jesus is speaking about His Passion, which is pure Gospel and the forgiveness of sins. But without the Holy Spirit enlivening hearts, these words can be heard but not believed. That isn't to say that the disciples didn't believe that Jesus would bring salvation, but they didn't know what His salvation really was. A blind beggar does. He couldn't see with his eyes, but could "see" more clearly than anyone else. Jesus is passing by and Jesus saves. "Have mercy on me, Son of David," he screams. And Jesus does. The beggar's sight is restored and he is saved by the grace of God through faith. *Lord, grant us the faith of the blind beggar. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 1:15-26—St. Matthias**

Matthias takes Judas' place. The death and resurrection of Jesus is in the past and He has ascended into heaven. Now the eleven wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. Jesus chose 12 men, but one is now gone, hung himself on a tree, so another must take his place. For the Apostolic office is set up by Jesus in order to proclaim the message of salvation in Him. This office proclaims the Gospel, which, it would seem, Judas knew nothing about, even though this Gospel was for him as well. So Matthias is placed into this office along with the eleven. Not much is known about Matthias. Not much is needed to be known. He is an Apostle. The Holy Spirit worked through him in order to proclaim the Gospel of Christ crucified to a world full of sinners. *Gracious Lord, thank You for the ministry of the Apostles and St. Matthias. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13—The Greatest Of These**

It doesn't matter how many talents you have. It doesn't matter if you can speak in tongues or move mountains. If you have not love, it is all for nothing. For all of these gifts, the Apostolic gifts of the New Testament, and even the "Spiritual gifts" of today, are given for others. Our Lord does not supply us with these sort of gifts for our own good, but for the good of our neighbor. Within the Church, that means service. Within the Church, that specifically means service that points to Jesus. For greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends. If we want to know love, then we look to Jesus. But we don't just look to Him as an example, even if He is the best of all examples. We look to His love for us found in the cross for our salvation. *Loving Savior, may we receive the love of Your cross and then love our neighbors in return. Amen.*

WED

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

In prayer, we present our requests before our Heavenly Father. We pray and ask as dear children ask their dear father knowing that He will supply everything that we need to support this body and life. Prayer is a gift from God for us, His children, to speak to the God of the universe and the Savior of all mankind. We do not pray with lofty speech, believing that the more eloquent the prayer the more it is heard. Nor do we pray before others so that we can be praised. In the same way, fasting is good bodily preparation. It draws our attending away from the temporal so that we might focus on the spiritual gifts that God gives. But our fasting, and indeed anything we do, does not earn us a better audience before God. So when we pray, we pray earnestly and honestly. And when we fast, we do it in secret. *May our Lententide be a time of repentance. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 12:23-36—Save Me From This Hour?**

Jesus wasn't looking forward to the cross's agony. He knew what the cross meant. He knew that being "lifted up" meant excruciating physical, emotional, and mental torment. He knew that on the cross HE would have the weight of the world's sin upon Him. And most of all, He knew that on the cross the Father would turn away from Him, as He must turn away from sin. But this is why He took on our flesh. Nothing was going to keep Him from this hour. For it was this hour, this cross, this being lifted up, that would draw all people to Him. The cross is the ultimate glory of God, for in the cross salvation is won and forgiveness is granted. The sin which is ours is now His, and righteousness that is His is now ours. In this way, Jesus desired nothing else than to go to the cross. *Saving Jesus, draw me and all people to You through Your cross. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 3:18-22—Preaching To The Demons**

Christ's descent into hell is part of His exaltation. For the demons, it was a preaching of their defeat. For us it is the preaching of the Gospel. To the spirits in prison Christ proclaimed once again that, "It is finished." His atoning sacrifice is victory over sin, death, and the devil. This victory He gives to His Church, He gives to you in Baptism. Trust in this sermon of victory against the demons' lies. As they attack you and tempt you, as they show you your sin and try and convince you that you are damned, you may, in response, say, "Satan hear this proclamation, I am Baptized into Christ! You have no authority over me and your word is null and void. Jesus has crushed your head and in Him I have been given eternal life." *Jesus, may my Baptism always proclaim to me that I am saved for Your sake. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 27—A Prayer**

Oh Lord, You are the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Even though my enemies prowl around me, my comfort is in You. I seek only one thing: That I may live with You in eternity! Hide me away in Your shelter when I am in trouble. Hear me when I cry out to You. Do not cast me away or turn Your face in anger. For You are my salvation and You have given Your Son to die and rise again so that I might have life in Him and may be free from the sin that mars me, the death that kills me, and the demons who tempt me. Teach me Your ways all the days of my life so that my head may be lifted up even in times of sorrow and despair. May I wait for the salvation of the Lord. Give me strength and let my heart take courage in You. Amen.

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