



“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 15-21, 2026

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

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the sacred season of Lent, we hear again the call to "Return to the LORD, your God" (Joel 2:13b). And since the LORD "is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love," we can return to Him (Joel 2:13c). Like the blind man sitting by the roadside, we know that God's mercy is found in Jesus, "Son of Man" and "Son of David" Who was "delivered over to the Gentiles" to be mocked, flogged and killed for us and our salvation (Lk. 18:31-32). Baptized into Christ, we follow Him by dying daily to sin so that we might also arise with Him to live by His grace and in His mercy.

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: **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 "Love is a Verb"**

Our culture reduces love down to emotions, feelings, and favorite interests. But love as demonstrated by our God and shown to us in the person of Christ Jesus is far more and greater than these things! He who loved us "while we were still sinners" and "enemies" of God by laying down His life for us (Rom. 5:8-10), calls us to love one another as He has loved us (Jn. 13:34). Saint Paul gives us concrete examples of how we are to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. Love acts and serves. Love is selfless, not self-seeking. Love takes no joy in evil, but rejoices in the truth. Love flows out of faith because Christ first loved us (1 Jn. 4:10). His love abides and never ends, even when our love fails. *O Lord, help me to love others as You have loved me. Amen.*

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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 "Wheat and Men Must Die to Bear Fruit"**

Jesus says throughout His ministry, "My hour has not yet come" (Jn. 2:4). But now, Jesus' "hour" has in fact come! What is this "hour"? It is the hour of His passion, His being "lifted up from the earth" on a cross and crucified for your sins and the sins of the whole world (v. 32). In this hour Jesus is glorified not *in spite* of the cross, but *through* the cross. This is what He has come to do for you. This is both His active and passive obedience before the Father for you. Jesus' death and resurrection bears the fruit of forgiveness, life and salvation for you. The only way to live in Jesus and follow Him is to die daily with Him, that raised with Him we might bear the fruits of faith. *Lord Jesus, help me to die with You that I might also live with You. Amen.*

FRI**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3: 18-22 "Baptism Now Saves You"**

Peter could not be any clearer here: "Baptism... now saves you" (v.21)! Baptism is not a symbolic act preformed by man, not a bath that removes dirt from the body. Baptism is God's way of making you a new creation in Christ Jesus. Just as Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood waters that cleansed the earth of evil, so those who are baptized into Christ are drown in His death and are raised with Him to new life now and forever. Cleansed of our unrighteousness and clothed with Christ's righteousness, we have a clean and good conscience before God today, tomorrow, and on the Last Day. *O Lord, should a guilty conscience seize me, remind me that I am baptized into Christ and cleansed by His blood. Amen.*

SAT**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 "Dwell in the House of the Lord"**

Enemies are encamped around the Psalmist. What is the Psalmist's response? He just wants to dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of his life. Why is that so important? It's because Jesus has promised to be in the House of the Lord for us Christians. He is present in His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. He is present in His gifts of joyfully hearing the Word of God proclaimed and received in the Sacraments. Nothing is more precious for us than to be in the House of the Lord, which is a foreshadowing of our resurrected worship and life. *Lord, help us honor Your house and rejoice in it. Amen.*

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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

Aurelius C. Prudentius



- 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.
- 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!

- 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.