

MARCH 17, 2019
SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT



Stand firm in the Lord.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 13:31-35	Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem
Monday	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	God's covenant with Abram
Tuesday	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Stand firm in the Lord
Wednesday	Matthew 23:37-39	Lament over Jerusalem
Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9	Be strong and courageous
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22	Paul's exhortations
Saturday	Psalms 27	A song of trust
Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Philippians 4:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, bless us with faith and confidence to trust your word and serve in your kingdom of healing and mercy. Through Christ our Lord, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food help us to see your goodness in the land of the living. Amen. (Psalm 27:14)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and good courage as you wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:13)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Wait for the Lord



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you have lacked confidence in yourself.
- We all doubt ourselves, our abilities, and our decisions at times. What helps you to be confident of who you are and what you are doing?
- In Genesis 15:9-18, God provided a promise and a covenant act that committed God to Abram and his descendants. What promise has God made to you? How does God keep the promise alive for you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 13:31-35.

In a surprising twist, Pharisees warn Jesus of Herod's threats on his life. In a very candid moment, Jesus brushes aside the threat of an earthly empire. Jesus' work is utterly too serious to be concerned with "that fox," King Herod. Jesus characterizes his work as a hen caring for her brood of chicks while they resist her protection. The focus of his concern is the deeper needs of people for "the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 13:35), not the powers of an empire. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "... our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20). The threat of earthly powers is not as important as Jesus' (and our) mission to bring hope and protection to those who remain in darkness. Our texts this week challenge us to trust and believe this (Genesis 15:6; Psalm 27; and Philippians 3:20-4:1). The Bible is filled with encouragement to trust God precisely because we can so easily turn away from God. How do you stand firm in God's promise and love?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to trust you alone and not to give in to the threats of those who would claim power over us. In the name of Jesus Christ, the one who came to protect us, amen.**

SERVICE



We can be scared by those who threaten our sense of safety in daily life. Our own fears can make the threats even worse. Be a servant of peace and hope for those you meet this week by taking time for a caring conversation, listening to concerns, and praying with them. Offer a spirit of calm and trust expressed in Psalm 27:1: "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?"

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lent is a season of waiting. Psalm 27:14 states: "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" The Hebrew word for "wait" also means "hope." Plant amaryllis or paperwhite narcissus bulbs in a shallow pot filled with soil. Add water and keep them in a place with indirect sunlight for about two weeks. Then place them in a warm spot.

These plants will begin to bloom in about four weeks. As you wait and hope for the plants to bloom, think about Psalm 27:14 daily in observance of Lent.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org