

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

*In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (v5)*

Philippians 3:1--4:1

Luke 13:31-35

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, & shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Philippians 3:1--4:1

<sup>17</sup> Brothers & sisters, join in imitating me, & observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, & now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; & their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, & it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers & sisters, whom I love & long for, my joy & crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

- Review St. Paul's dealings with the Judaizing "super-apostles" (see *2 Corinthians 11:5, 12:11*). How do their claims run counter the Bible & St. Paul? See *Genesis 15:6; Acts 15:1-29, 16:1-3; John 5:39-47; Romans 4:1-25; 1 Corinthians 9:20-23; Galatians 2:3-10, 15-16, 3:6-14, 5:2-4; Colossians 2:6--19*
- Read *Romans 1, 16:17-18* (cf. *Romans 2:17-24*). How does this fit with *vv18-19*? How does it fit with *2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22*? What does *Luke 13:1-5*?

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

- St. Paul sets himself & his close companions as examples for the congregation to follow. Review the [Small Catechism Table of Duties](#). Who do you see as specific examples of holiness & godliness for you in your congregation? What makes them so? Who do you see as having their mind set on earthly thing? What makes that so? See *Philippians 2:5-8*; [SC available bookofconcord.org](#)
- Now consider the other side: what faithful examples have you left for others? Who will affirm or confirm this about you? *Move past the "good person, "law abiding," & "tax paying" clichés. Get honest & truthful with yourself & the Holy Spirit- he'll tell you if you're listening to him (v15).*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

- How does *v20*, citizenship in heaven, give you a new way to speak to neighbors about Jesus when it seems everything in our country is divided red/blue, woke/based, America first/global perspective, etc.?
- The Church has its own competency in public life separate from that of commerce/business/economics, & from that of politics/civics/governance. (That doesn't mean these three basic spheres don't inform each other or interact.) How does realizing this, "staying in one's lane," & preaching God's Law & Gospel actually lead to a richer, more robust public, common life (cf. *v21*)? *Note: this has nothing to do with our American phrase/ legal concept "separation of church & state."*

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2025; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/blog)

Second Sunday in Lent

03.16.25

Series: Christ Our Rock

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*Jesus gives us support, a foundation, & refuge*

Rock of Ages

*The Lord's blessings come now & at the end*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** But our citizenship is in heaven, & it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (v20)

---

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)**

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2025; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/blog)

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

*In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (v5)*

Philippians 3:1--4:1

Luke 13:31-35

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, & shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Philippians 3:1--4:1

<sup>17</sup>Brothers & sisters, join in imitating me, & observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, & now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; & their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, & it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers & sisters, whom I love & long for, my joy & crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

- Review St. Paul's dealings with the Judaizing "super-apostles" (see *2 Corinthians 11:5, 12:11*). How do their claims run counter the Bible & St. Paul? See *Genesis 15:6; Acts 15:1-29, 16:1-3; John 5:39-47; Romans 4:1-25; 1 Corinthians 9:20-23; Galatians 2:3-10, 15-16, 3:6-14, 5:2-4; Colossians 2:6--19*
- Read *Romans 1, 16:17-18* (cf. *Romans 2:17-24*). How does this fit with *vv18-19*? How does it fit with *2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22*? What does *Luke 13:1-5*?

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

- St. Paul sets himself & his close companions as examples for the congregation to follow. Review the [Small Catechism Table of Duties](#). Who do you see as specific examples of holiness & godliness for you in your congregation? What makes them so? Who do you see as having their mind set on earthly thing? What makes that so? See *Philippians 2:5-8*; [SC available bookofconcord.org](#)
- Now consider the other side: what faithful examples have you left for others? Who will affirm or confirm this about you? *Move past the "good person, "law abiding," & "tax paying" clichés. Get honest & truthful with yourself & the Holy Spirit- he'll tell you if you're listening to him (v15).*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

- How does *v20*, citizenship in heaven, give you a new way to speak to neighbors about Jesus when it seems everything in our country is divided red/blue, woke/based, America first/global perspective, etc.?
- The Church has its own competency in public life separate from that of commerce/business/economics, & from that of politics/civics/governance. (That doesn't mean these three basic spheres don't inform each other or interact.) How does realizing this, "staying in one's lane," & preaching God's Law & Gospel actually lead to a richer, more robust public, common life (cf. *v21*)? *Note: this has nothing to do with our American phrase/ legal concept "separation of church & state."*

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2025; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/blog)

Second Sunday in Lent

03.16.25

Series: Christ Our Rock

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*Jesus gives us support, a foundation, & refuge*

Rock of Ages

*The Lord's blessings come now & at the end*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE:** But our citizenship is in heaven, & it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (v20)

---

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)**

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2025; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/blog)