

Devotion for the Second Week of Lent

Rescue Me

I'd rather not need rescue.

I'd prefer a five-step plan
and a quick-fix solution.

I'd prefer stubborn insistence over
honest vulnerability, because rescue
requires asking for help.

Rescue names
the rising water.

Rescue sees
the tired, treading feet.

Rescue feels
the swell of the wind
and the rain at a slant.

But when the floor falls out
and the world is on fire
and my small hands
cannot fix the hurt welling in me,
the prayer that slips out
is rescue, rescue, rescue me.

By Sarah Speed

Peter said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." (Matthew 14:28)

Consider an instance when you have said, "If it is really you, Lord, give me the power to ____." How did Jesus respond? How did you respond?



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As a new disciple, perhaps Peter wants to prove himself. Boldly, in the middle of a storm, Peter steps out of the boat to join Jesus who is walking on top of the waves. He, too, walks on water until the wind shakes his trust and he begins to sink. Many of us know what it feels like to be thrown off balance, to feel as if we're sinking. Maybe this looks like doubt, unexpected change, too-busy seasons of life, devastating grief, or distance from God. In this story, we empathize with the desperation Peter feels as he cries out, and we pray for God to save us when we sink.

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The Second Sunday of Lent

Gathered to Worship

February 25, 2024

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Song *God So Loved* Praise Team

Lenten Candles

As the days lengthen, we follow Jesus on his journey to the cross. The light grows dim as we anticipate Jesus' sacrifice and as we hope for the dawn of Easter morning.

Lenten Response

God of all the saints, God of all the sinners, we would be saintlike – holy, good, patient, loving. But we end up feeling more like sinners – full of failures of morality, selfish, and mean spirited.

Jesus, you teach us to follow you. Let us receive your grace so we may extend it to others.

Perhaps, O God, you see us simply as human – as beloved, and flawed, and trying, and failing, and succeeding. In all of this, forgive the wrong that we have done, and bless the good we have accomplished.

Jesus, you modeled love over hate and kindness over meanness. Help us to be more like you.

Eternal One, keep on loving us, and helping us, and molding us more and more into the image of Christ.

Jesus, meet us here in worship and guide us in the week ahead.

Adapted from: Beth Merrill Neel

Scripture Matthew 14:22-33 Pew Bible p 16

Spoken Response

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God. He to rescue me from danger interposed his precious blood.

Receiving of the Offering

Hymn *Blessed Assurance* UMH 369

Sermon Rescue Me Rev. Blom

Song *I Lift My Hands* Praise Team

Prayers of the People and 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Song *Psalm 91* Praise Team

Benediction / Extinguish Lenten Candle



Thank you for your Donations!

We delivered more than 1000 snacks and over 90 breakfast items to Koala Pantry. Many thanks to all who donated and to the delivery team, Connor, Mariana, Kyle, Bill, Brenda, and Audrey.

The Big Meeting is Today! Please gather in the fellowship hall after worship. Following lunch, committees will meet and then collectively we will calendar events focused on ministry and mission for 2024. All are welcome.

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