

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 33:5-6, 1, 18-20**

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. Alle- | luia.*
By the word of the Lord the heavens were made. Alle- | luia!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you | righteous!*
For praise from the upright is | beautiful.
Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who | fear Him,*
on those who hope in His | mercy.
To deliver their | soul from death,*
and to keep them alive in | famine.
Our soul waits | for the Lord;*
He is our help | and our shield.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 10:12**
“The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Merciful Father, who by the humiliation of Your Son raised up the fallen world, grant to Your faithful people perpetual gladness, and make those whom You have delivered from the danger of everlasting death to be partakers of eternal joys; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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
O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

TLH 263, LSB 666
Johann M. Altenburg



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| <p>1. O little flock, fear not the Foe
Who madly seeks your overthrow;
Dread not his rage and power.
What though your courage sometimes
faints,
His seeming triumph o'er God's saints
Lasts but a little hour.</p> | <p>3. As true as God's own Word is true.
Not earth nor hell with all their crew
Against us shall prevail.
A jest and byword are they grown;
God is with us, we are His own;
Our victory cannot fail.</p> |
| <p>2. Be of good cheer; your cause belongs
To Him who can avenge your wrongs;
Leave it to Him, our Lord.
Though hidden yet from mortal eyes,
His Gideon shall for you arise,
Uphold you and His Word.</p> | <p>4. Amen, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer;
Great Captain, now Thine arm make
bare,
Fight for us once again!
So shall Thy saints and martyrs raise
A mighty chorus to Thy praise,
World without end. Amen.</p> |



“He is Risen to be the Shepherd of the Church”

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: He is Risen to be the Shepherd of the Church

"I am the Good Shepherd." With these words Jesus introduces you to a picture of how He saves, protects, and leads His saints out of the evils of this world to the joys of resurrected life. The sheep are the baptized. The wilderness through which the sheep must travel is the world. The wolves waiting to attack are the demons and their teeth are lies. The hired hands are men driven by selfish gain. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He doesn't run. He laid down His life, between you and the devil's lies, to be devoured by the guilt of your sin. Jesus lives! His voice, the Scriptures, shepherds you through the valley of the shadow of death to the hope of life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-16 Hired Hands

"Hired hands" belong to one of two groups. The first consists of gurus and visionaries who vie for your sacrifices of attention, time, and money. If you pay, they promise pastures of sensual gratification and material abundance. They lie. A Christian who knows the catechism by heart sees these false shepherds from miles away and avoids them. The second and more dangerous group are men who claim to pastor Christ's church, but, fearing rejection, won't speak in the Good Shepherd's voice of rebuking sin and absolving troubled hearts. For every pastor that fails to preach Scripture's truth, the Lord remembers His Church and sends men who will be faithful. The Good Shepherd won't abandon us. *Grant us faithful pastors, heavenly Father. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 70 Make Haste to Deliver Me

This is a psalm for terrified sheep who are moments away from being torn to shreds by a pack of wolves. Some of the sheep have been given the gift of discerning true and false teachers, of telling good shepherds from the bad and sheep from wolves in sheep's clothing. They hear the confusion of works with God's kindness in Christ and they sound the alarm. Thanks be to God! But for many of us who struggle with the nuances of theological debate, it's enough to be taught from the Scriptures that we have enemies who hate Jesus' voice. That's why the Holy Spirit, through this psalm, teaches us to confess the reality of the enemies' attack and gives us words to use in prayer against them. *Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21-25 By His Wounds You are Healed

St. Peter's words are too high and lofty to be written by a man who knows nothing about despair in the face of sin and joy at hearing the Absolution. Even for saints who take comfort in the promise of forgiveness for Christ's sake, St. Peter's encouragement to suffer mingled together with the comfort of the atonement is more than flesh and blood can fathom. But it's true! Don't avoid the cross. Embrace it with faith. Keep from sin when enemies threaten to devour you. Entrust yourselves to Him who judges justly. What's the worst that can happen? Your sins can't damn you. By Jesus' wounds you've been healed. Our Good Shepherd even knows the way through suffering and death to life. He will not lead his sheep astray. *Lead thou on, O Christ! Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16 "I Seek Out My Sheep"

The false shepherds make prey of what's been committed to their protection. They don't fight and die to spare the sheep from the wolves. They feed their own bellies and tell the sheep what their itching ears desire. As the sheep get what they want, and not what they need, they grow fat, flop over on the ground, and let the wild beasts gorge themselves. The Lord cannot let this continue. God himself, bearing a real human nature, has come to shepherd His church with His Word. He doesn't serve Himself. He serves His sheep with salvation and eternal life. He leads them often through rough and slippery paths, but He knows what's best. He knows how to deliver from evil. *O Jesus, find me when lost, bind me when injured, and strengthen me when weak. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30 "My Judgment is Just"

All judgment has been given to the Son. But now, in this hour of grace, Jesus calls his sheep through sermons, baptism, and teaching. He extends His shepherding Word to the ends of the earth that "whoever hears my Word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." When the final day comes, and Jesus returns on a cloud in glory, the saints who have passed from death to life will hear not the voice of a terrible judge, but their Good Shepherd who has already promised eternal mercy and blessing. With their sins long since forgiven, their good works follow them, and they enter the resurrection of life. *Grant me faith to hear Your Word which carries from death to life, O Jesus. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20, 21 It is Finished

St. Paul blesses his hearers at the end of his sweeping sermon to his countrymen. The benediction is founded on the sacrificial offering of Christ's blood that has pacified God and secured a new and eternal testament. In this New Testament, men don't have to earn or retain their salvation by works. God's kindness has been secured by Christ. The old propitiatory sacrifices have come to an end having been perfected by Jesus' cross, resurrection, and ascension. The new sacrifices of faith, thanksgiving, and praise have come. By the preaching and administration of this New Testament, God works in us to do what is pleasing in his sight. *Grant me faith to receive the benefits of Christ's New Testament, heavenly Father. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 The Lord is My Shepherd

David sings a hymn to Jesus. That's what I would title this hymn if they let me near the sub-heading machine at the Bible-publisher's office. David, being a prophet, saw Jesus' compassion in forgiving the sins of conscience-stricken men, men like himself. He saw his Lord lead His flock through death, having entered into it Himself, so He might lead them back out to resurrected life where evil can no longer touch them. He saw how Jesus' shepherding Word held forth in and out of season, no matter how demons and false teachers raged. In this church and with this hope, David saw how goodness and mercy follow him and all the saints. This is how they know they shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Shepherd me by Your Word, O Jesus. Amen.*