



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

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 10:11**
 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives 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



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.
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.
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.
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.

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

Jesus was raised to shepherd His flock. He stands now in the LORD's strength to protect, guide, and uphold the flock for whom He gave His life. This picture of the flock saved by the dying Shepherd strengthens our faith and comforts our conscience. This week we consider only a handful of Bible passages concerning Christ the good Shepherd, and in them consolation overflows. God be praised!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-16, An Exceptionally Good Shepherd

We are the wandering sheep gone astray. Jesus is the exceptionally Good Shepherd who knows the sheep, calls us by name, finds us in the wilderness and carries us home, gives us rest in green pastures and refreshment in the cool waters, and more. This Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. This Good Shepherd is also the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Like a silent Lamb He bears our sins and carries our sorrows, and they crush Him. He dies for us, His sheep, the people of His pasture. Can you imagine it? Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I? Indeed, He has! *O Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life to rescue Your people. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 70, The Race to Hurt or Help You

This Psalm paints the picture of a person being pursued and chased down. Your enemies are after you, and you are praying they would not find you. "Let them be ashamed and confounded who seek my life" (70:2). The LORD is also coming for you, and you plead with Him to hurry. "Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, do not delay." (70:1, 5). Our lives are always lives in trouble. The world, our own flesh, and the devil threaten our good and all the gifts of God. So we are always in need of help and rescue. Because of all the troubles of this life we are always praying Psalm 70, *O Lord, please hurry. You are my help and my deliverer, O LORD, do not delay. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21-25, Jesus Our Example and Savior

Peter's letter gives hope to the sufferer. It reminds us, first, that Jesus also suffered. He is our example; He shows us how to do it. But He is much more than an example. It turns out Jesus' suffering was the suffering that we deserved. He "bore our sins in His own body on the tree" of the cross. His suffering is the suffering we deserved. His cross is the punishment our sins deserved. But Jesus, the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls is there for us. God be praised! By His stripes we are healed. *O Lord, we give You thanks that You suffered patiently for sinners, for us. Cleanse us by Your blood. Keep us as Your holy flock. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16, Those are My Sheep

This entire chapter is worth reading. Through the prophet the LORD is thundering against the false teachers and unfaithful rulers of Israel. The rulers and teachers were meant to care for the LORD's people like a careful shepherd. They failed. They abused and troubled the people for their own gain. The LORD will punish the terrible rulers, but then here's the good news- the LORD Himself will take up His rod and staff to shepherd the people. "I" is the key word. "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep.... I will seek out... I will bring... I will feed." *O LORD, seek us, find us, rescue us, feed us, tend to us with Your mercy and kindness, and bring us at last to the eternal joys of Your kingdom. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30 From Life to Death to Life

The day is coming soon when all in the grave will hear the voice of Jesus and be raised. What a tremendous day! What a terrifying day! Following the resurrection is the judgment. But here is another wonderful mystery revealed to us in this text: there is no judgment for the Christian. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (5:24). God be praised! For us wanderers through the valleys and shadows of death, the resurrection of life is coming soon. *O Lord Jesus Christ, You conquered death for us. Come quickly to rescue us from the pangs of death and the grave, and bring us to eternal life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20, 21 Our God of War and Peace

"The LORD is a man of war" (Exodus 15:3). He has gone to battle, not against you, but for you. He is your champion, and all your enemies are scattered on the field. Sin: forgiven (Colossians 1:14). Death: disarmed (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). The devil: destroyed (Hebrews 2:14-15). The Lord of war is, for us, the "God of peace" (Hebrews 13:20). He has brought Jesus up from the dead for our justification (Romans 4:25), for our forgiveness, life, and salvation, and in Him we are complete. *We give You thanks, heavenly Father, for the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, whose resurrection gives us grace and peace. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23: My Shepherd? The LORD

My shepherd? The LORD. He is the One who provides my needs. He is the One who guards and protects me. He is the One who provides everything I need for this life and the life to come. He is the One who defends me against all danger. His rod is my comfort. His staff is my peace. His cross is my hope. His death is my life. His mercy is my confidence. His name is my righteousness. His word is my wisdom. Even in the midst of so many enemies, He prepares a table for feasting and joy. Even in the midst of so many dangers He calls me His own. Even in the valley and shadow His presence and promise give light and life. Goodness follows me. Mercy chases me down. His house is my eternal dwelling. *O Lord, now and forever, be my good Shepherd. Amen.*