



“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 **Psalm 23:1**
 “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

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: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Create

The motif of the Good Shepherd can be found throughout Scripture, from the Old Testament into the New. Christ is that Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. That means He does for us all that a shepherd does for his sheep. He feeds us and waters us. He guides us and protects us. He defends us from the assaults of the devil and this fallen world, closing the mouths of the wolves that seek to devour us. But most importantly of all, He lays down His life for us, giving His neck to the wolves, so that we might never have to. All this He does of His own accord: not kicking and screaming, but joyfully and willingly, because He loves us to hell and back, into and out of the grave. Christ is our Good Shepherd. May we, His sheep, never be afraid.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-18—The Good Shepherd

The greatest thing about the Good Shepherd is His sacrificial love. In guiding and feeding and leading us beside still waters, Jesus is always the one Who is doing the work for His sheep. The sheep just come along for the ride, gladly following where the shepherd will lead them, seemingly ignorant of all the vicious enemies that the Good Shepherd is keeping at bay. We are like sheep in that way, barely able to comprehend all that Jesus does for us. This culminates in the Good Shepherd laying down His own life for us. No enemy is strong enough to take it from Him. Judas didn't force Him on the cross, neither did the Pharisees, or Pontus Pilate. Even the devil, himself, had no power over Him. No, Jesus laid down His own life for you: gladly, willingly, joyfully, so that you might not have to die eternally. *Good Shepherd, guide me through all my days. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21-25—Straying Like Sheep

Christ bore your sin in His own body. He died on the cross as your perfect sacrifice. He wrestled you away from death and the demons, too. The victory of the cross He has washed over you, spoken into your ears, and bodied and blooded into your bellies. You are a new creation in Him; that is your reality. And as such, as His Body, you are now free to follow His example. But not for your own sake. He has already done everything for you. No, you now follow His example for the sake of your neighbor. When suffering and trials come upon you because of your confession of Him, you can bare them like He did, proclaiming Christ's death and resurrection into a lost and fallen world. You preach Christ crucified, even to your enemies, even to those who revile you, because Christ died for them as well. *Shepherd and Overseer of our souls, help me to follow Your example. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:1-9—Like Lambs to the Wolves

Jesus sends out His disciples into the world. The same is true today for the Church, as well. She stands as a city on a hill to shine the light of Christ into the darkness. The Church is not called to wall Herself away from the world. We may no longer be of this world, but we are still in it. We are in it to serve our neighbors in the vocations that God has given to us. But also, the Church stands to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to those in desperate need of it. When the wolves surround, know that this must be true, for Christ has said as much. But know also that Christ died for the wolves, too. He desires them to be His sheep and He has gifted the Church with the task of proclaiming the Gospel. So do not fear when the wolves bare their teeth. Christ has already received their vicious bite on the cross. *Good Shepherd, strengthen us as we proclaim Your cross into the world. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16—I Will...

If you have never before noticed who is the one doing the saving, look again at our text for today. How many times does God place Himself as the main actor in our salvation scenario? "I will, I will, I will..." That is all that God says. Take heart that your salvation is secure, because God Himself said that He will take care of it. He will search for you and seek you out and rescue you and bring you out and feed you and cause you to lie down in safety and shepherd you and bring you back and bind you up and strengthen you. He will do all of that and so much more. On the cross He has won all of this for you. In His Church, through the preaching of the Word, the wetting of your heads, and the preparing of His table, He gives that cross and open tomb to you. And on that Last Day, He will raise you from the dead, too. *Good Shepherd, thank You for doing everything for me! Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30—All in the tombs will come out

Jesus speaks about the Last Day and the resurrection of all flesh. It's a truth that is sure and certain, but what is all this stuff about, "those who do good and those who do evil?" Didn't we just hear yesterday that God was going to do everything for us? To answer this we must go back to the beginning of our text where Jesus says, "Whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life." This is a passive thing on our part, for we cannot believe apart from the Holy Spirit. So when the Holy Spirit preaches the Word of Christ crucified, He brings us to faith in the absolute truth that the Father sent His Son for us. It's all still the work of God, every single last bit of it. The good that we "do" is believing that God has done it all for us in Christ. Still Jesus, always Jesus, always Jesus for you! *Holy Spirit, sustain us in the faith of Christ crucified. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20, 21—By the Blood of the Eternal Covenant

The Great Shepherd of the sheep has always been the Shepherd who would save His sheep from sin, death, and the devil. And the blood that He shed on the cross is the seal of that covenant. That is why earlier, the writer of the Hebrews calls the Lord's Supper the New Testament. Think of it as a last will and testament that comes into effect at the death of the Testator, Jesus. His cross seals the covenant and His Supper ushers in the New Testament. We receive the gifts of the cross, life and salvation, when we partake of His Supper. So we are the beneficiaries of Christ's Last will and testament, except the gifts never run dry because Christ did not stay dead. He is alive, eternally so, which means that we will receive Him and the benefits of His cross eternally as well. *Great Shepherd, pour out the blood of the eternal covenant upon us always. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23—The Lord is My Shepherd

Gracious Lord and Shepherd, in You I shall never want for anything. Lead me like one of Your lambs to the stillest of waters. Lie me down in safety in the greenest of pastures. Today and everyday, restore my soul in the forgiveness of sins. For Your sake alone, lead me in Your righteousness that I may delight in You. Even in this valley of death grant me Your peace that I may fear no evil. Remind me that You are always with me and will never forsake me. Comfort me with the staff of Your Word. Spread before me Your table, complete with Your very Body and Blood, that even in the presence of my enemies I may know that I am Yours. Fill me will every good thing. Remind me of my baptism where I was anointed by You, that I may rest secure all my life. And when my wandering days are through, bring me to Your house where I may dwell with You forever. Amen.

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