

“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** 1 Peter 2:24
 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

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> |

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of May 5-11, 2019

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Be the Shepherd of the Church

He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! This week is Good Shepherd week. We see how Jesus cares for His sheep. We are His sheep. We were wanderers — lost and confused. He has sought us out and put us in His pastures of green grass and still streams. He lays down His life to keep us safe. He battles our spiritual enemies on our behalf. By His death upon the cross we have life and will dwell in the house of the Lord where we receive His gifts and hear His voice in His Word and Sacraments of Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and Holy Absolution.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-16 Jesus' Flock

Who belongs to God's flock? Is it only the people of Jewish descent? No. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and His flock is international. Faith in His death and resurrection makes one part of this flock. Jesus gathers in people from all nations by His voice. We hear and recognize His voice because it is the voice of the One who cries out on the cross drawing us to Himself. He lays down His life for us. He has called us by name in Holy Baptism. He gives us the fruit of His sacrifice in His body and blood on the Altar. *O Lord, thank You for making us and keeping us a part of Your flock. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 70 Afflictions

God uses the very things that we struggle against as a way to draw us closer to Himself. We are praying with the psalmist to God for help in the face of afflictions. We cannot stand before them or overcome them. They afflict us, but the effect of the afflictions are the opposite of what was intended by the perpetrators. Our Shepherd alone can help us. He guards and protects us. When He does, our fellow believers rejoice. We also pray that those afflicting us may be drawn to God in repentance and faith. *O Lord, we ask You to please continue to stand for us and protect us. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21-25 Wandering No More

We are by nature wandering and defenseless sheep. To save us, Christ became both Priest and Lamb. He died as a criminal between two criminals. He committed no sin yet was cursed to die on the tree by bearing our sins in His body. Sin caused Jesus' death and damnation. Our Shepherd did all of this to heal us as His sheep. He died to make us righteous. The Shepherd suffered the treatment and bore the cost so we, the sick, could be healed. We are wandering and lost no longer. *O Lord, help us to live according to Your Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16 Our Good Shepherd

The nation of Israel had bad shepherd after bad shepherd. They neglected their duties and the people wandered from faith to faithlessness. The spiritual leaders cared about themselves and not for the sheep of their fold. Their god was themselves. They abandoned their duties and now God will bring Israel to captivity. Yet, in the midst of this, God declares that He will be their Shepherd. He will seek out His sheep, those that have gone astray from the nations. He will gather all His sheep and bring them to Israel and feed them with His own body and blood in good pastures. *O Lord, continue to be our Shepherd, and protect us from going astray. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30 His Judgment is Eternal Life

The Good Shepherd has come to give His life for His sheep. True. He has also come as judge. He declares His judgment to you through His Word that is preached and the Sacraments administered according to His command. When He comes to judge the living and the dead, His judgment on you, His sheep, is one of eternal life that comes from passing from death to life. Those who are His sheep will hear His voice and rejoice for it is a voice that says, "Well done good and faithful servant." *O Lord, You are the Good Shepherd, help us to rejoice in our life in You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20, 21 Life and Salvation through His Blood

When God led our Good Shepherd, Jesus, out of death, peace was restored between God and mankind. Jesus was exalted and lifted out of death for us. Jesus burst a hole in the side of death thereby destroying its power. He takes us, His sheep, out the same way He did. He is great and bestows all of His benefits of life and salvation through His blood to us. Jesus has purified us from sin and has delivered us from death. Now we do His will for the benefit of our fellow sheep. *O Lord, help us to rejoice in Your benefits. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 Still Waters of Baptism

Our Shepherd prayed Psalm 22 while upon the cross. His fulfillment of it in His forsakenness from God so we may be the sheep of His pasture. He suffered and was killed for us. His blood is poured upon us in Baptism. Now we rejoice. Psalm 23 is our response. He died and rose on the third day so we can be resurrected. Only Jesus knows the way through death that leads to life in His pastures of green grass that satisfy the body and soul. He leads us to still waters of Baptism. We are dependent upon Him, our ever-living Head. *O Lord, keep us in Your green pastures. Amen.*

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