

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

## Around the Word Devotions + the week of April 26-May 2, 2020

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

Good Shepherd Sunday is when we focus upon Jesus as our Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep by being THE Sacrifice for us poor and needy beggars. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus is also the Overseer of our souls. He sought you out when you had gone astray. After He finds you, He brings you through the valley of the shadow of death to good pastures. Resting upon green pastures and beside still waters, He feeds you with the eternal meal from His table. Redeemed by His sacrifice and fed with His body and blood, we are set free to love one another and do good works through Him.

**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-16 The Good Shepherd**

The Good Shepherd's concern is first and foremost His sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We know this by what He does. He is the sacrifice so that His flock can live. Hired hands care not for the sheep. Thieves only want to use them after they are dead. Jesus alone lays down His life for you, His sheep. He did not remain dead. He rose three days later. His death and resurrection bring salvation. We hear His voice calling to us in the Word and Sacraments. He joins us together with Himself. This is why he calls himself "good."  
*Lord, help us rejoice in Your Good Shepherd's voice. Amen.*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 70 "Make haste, O God, to deliver me"**

Psalm 70 is a psalm of memorial offering, a psalm offered during the sacrifice. We join with the Psalmist in praying that God would remember us in these sacrifices. We pray to God for deliverance and salvation from those who "seek my life," the workers of spiritual harm. We pray this because of our inability to save ourselves. We are "poor and needy", spiritually beggars who require salvation. We are hopeless without God, our Good Shepherd, who hears and delivers us. Jesus is our true and only memorial offering of flesh and blood upon the cross for our salvation.

*Lord, we are poor and needy, save us. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21-25 Jesus Bore My Sins**

The Good Shepherd leads us through suffering and death to the resurrection of green grass and still waters. Peter, who denied knowing his Lord three times, knows this firsthand. Peter went astray. Yet, the Shepherd and Overseer of his soul found him. Jesus had mercy on Peter. He forgave him. He, who committed no sins, bore Peter's sins in His flesh on the tree so that Peter would live to Righteousness. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, did the same for you so that you would be His forever.

*Lord, we easily wander. We pray for You to continue to search for us. Amen.*

**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16 God's Saving Work**

In the days of Ezekiel, there were many bad shepherds of the people of Israel. They cared not for the people. Their hearts were full of greed and idolatry. God was tired of how little these shepherds cared for the sheep, the people of Israel. So God declared that He will take matters into His own hands, literally. He became incarnate and had His hands stretched out on wood with nails going through them so that He could gather His lost sheep, so that He could gather you, and bring you to the mountain of the salvation of His cross.  
*Lord, thank You for taking the matter of our salvation into Your own hands. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30 Judged by Jesus' Work**

The Father does not judge. The Son judges. Praise God that we've escaped judgements of condemnation. Jesus has purchased and won you with His precious blood and innocent suffering and death. He has chosen us to be believers by raising us from spiritual death to spiritual life in baptism, by water and Word. At the font, He makes us a part of His kingdom which has no end. We heard His voice, a voice which cried out "It is finished!" His voice makes us worthy. We receive his merciful verdict by faith in Him, our Good Shepherd who does the will of the Father.

*Lord, judge us based on the merits of Your Son, Who has redeemed us. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20, 21 Preserved in Faith**

This is the Benediction of the Epistle to the Hebrews. The author makes one last reminder and prayer for us readers to continue by faith in the sacrificial death, burial, and the resurrection of our Good Shepherd. Jesus has redeemed us. He makes us well-pleasing to the Father by His "blood of the eternal covenant" which lasts forever. Through Jesus, we are preserved in faith. By Jesus' blood poured upon the cross of Calvary, we are redeemed and set free to do good works.

*Lord, help us do good works for our neighbors through Jesus. Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 My Cup Overflows**

Psalm 23 is probably the most well-known Psalm and for good reason. Here we see our Lord as our Good Shepherd. We are sheep. He provides all that we need for this body and life: physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. He does not withhold blessings from us. Rather, He gives us more than we can ever imagine. He sent His Son from eternity, Jesus, to be born of a virgin mother, suffer and die for us. He redeems us and leads us through the shadow of death to life, where we celebrate the fullness of God's grace in the Lord's Supper.  
*Lord, thank You for Shepherding us today and always. Amen.*

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