

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 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<br/>Who madly seeks your overthrow;<br/>Dread not his rage and power.<br/>What though your courage sometimes 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 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> |
|--|---|--|--|



“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**

This week we dwell on what Jesus means when He says, "I am the Good Shepherd." This theme of God Himself being a shepherd for His people is present all the way through the Bible, from the Old Testament even unto the book of Revelation. If God is a Shepherd, then there must be a flock. There must be sheep, lambs which He takes care of. This is you, dear Christian. This week, meditate upon this relationship between Jesus your Good Shepherd and you, His dear lamb, and how it is that He shepherds you, namely, by the word which you hear and read.

**SUN**

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

We have heard Jesus speak about Himself being the Good Shepherd so many times that the original effect is lost to us. Listen closely. He says that because He is the Good Shepherd, He will "lay down My life for the sheep." Does this sound like the behavior of a sane person? A rancher who dies for his steers, a pig farmer who sacrifices himself for the hogs, a poulturer who lays down and lets the predators eat him rather than the chickens - we would rightly call such a man insane. And yet that is exactly what Jesus does for us, His own sheep who have gone astray. He is not insane, but loving, that He lays down on the cross to acquire us, so prone to wander. *Lord Jesus, gather me into the fold of Your Church and keep me always. Amen.*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 70 The Prayer of the Sufferer**

The life of the Christian is never far from the cross. So it is that the Holy Spirit gives us psalms to pray in the midst of trial and suffering - like Psalm 70. We cry out "Make haste, O God, to deliver me!" that is to say "Come to our aid! Help! For the ones who seek to take away our lives and livelihoods, the ones who deprive us of God's word and worship, the ones who arrogantly open their mouths at God's Christians and say 'Aha, aha!' surround us with their threats and taunts." But God will be magnified. He keeps His Christians who suffer with His Son. He is glorified and vindicated. So will we be. Until then, we rest in God's promises to keep and preserve us. *Lord, make haste to help us. Defend us and fight for us. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21-25 Be Like Jesus**

Yes, that's right. Be like Jesus. We don't work around or qualify such biblical admonitions with accusations of Pietism or works righteousness. We don't cheapen God's word. For this is expressly what the Holy Scripture teaches here. Jesus, while your Savior is also your example (vs.21). When you are reviled as a Christian, do not retaliate. When you suffer for the holy faith, do not threaten. Why? Because as Jesus entrusted Himself to Him who judges righteously, that is the Father, so you also entrust yourself to God. Jesus is your Good Shepherd. Jesus is your Bishop, your overseer. You please Him. He justifies you. And that is enough. What can man do to you? *Jesus, keep watch over my soul, that I would always be with you. Amen.*

**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16 Jesus Restores**

Ezekiel shows here the work and reign of Christ which He works through His gospel gone through all the world. By the preached word He calls and gathers His sheep to Himself. He causes His people to dwell in the security of the fold, the new and eternal Israel, by the forgiveness of their sins. While Ezekiel looks forward especially to the last day when Christ will raise all the dead and wipe away every tear and end every sorrow, that reign, that kingdom of God is present among us already. Go to church. Hear the word. Trust in Christ for your salvation and forgiveness and already the Good Shepherd restores you to His peace. *Lord God, continue to call me into Your fold. Feed me and sustain me. Never let me go. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30 Two Resurrections**

Jesus here speaks of two resurrections on the last day. One of life, and the other of condemnation. Those who have done evil, that is, those who have not faith in the One who speaks the words of life, they come into condemnation, judgement, and will be separated from God forever, just as they wished in their earthly life. But for those who hear the voice, the word of Jesus, and believe in that word, they will come to everlasting life. For this is why Jesus is come to us - that He would bear our sins and be our Savior. Doubt not that this is for you, dear Christian. Believe in Christ and you shall pass from death and into life eternal. *Dear Jesus, come and awaken me, that I may behold Your face and delight in You evermore. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20, 21 The Good Word**

The word *benediction* which most of us know from the Divine Service literally means "a good word". Here the preacher of this sermon, which we know of as the Book of Hebrews, gives his benediction - the good word. And what is that word? The Father has awakened your Lord Jesus from the dead. He lives. And because of the blood of the eternal covenant, you will live too. By faith in Him, you work the works He has given you to do. You live in the knowledge that your Good Shepherd lives and will never die again. That's the Good Word. *Lord God, awaken me from the dead just as You have awakened my Lord Jesus. Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 A Table**

Jesus your Good Shepherd prepares a table for you. Where? Well, for one, it is in the midst of your enemies. Sin, Death and the Devil, your enemies hem you in on every side and yet in their midst your Lord prepares a meal for you. Every time you go to church you feed on His Word, His precious gospel which strengthens you for your journey through this valley of shadow. Especially does He prepare His body and blood, given under bread and wine for you, that you would know for certain that He goes with you always. Even in this valley, the Lord goes with you and will bring you through. *Jesus, Good Shepherd, feed me always by Your Word and Sacrament. Amen.*

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