

**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 10:14**

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

**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 30-May 6, 2017

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

Shepherds need sheep and sheep need shepherds. The two go together. Our Good Shepherd is here to care for you, His sheep. You need His correction, His leading, His care, and His protection. The sheep of God are found by the Good Shepherd and put into the Church of Christ. In the church the Good Shepherd provides for His flock and feeds them on His Word and His body and blood. To leave the church is to leave the flock and to leave the care of Jesus. The flock of the church is the place where you are protected and will receive all that you need for eternal life.

**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-16 Sacrificial Shepherd**

The Shepherd willingly does what needs to be done. What needs to be done is the hardest of sacrifices; to give of your own life for someone else. The Sacrificial Shepherd lays down his life by dying on the cross and takes it up again as He is raised from the dead. Jesus is charged to do this for you by His heavenly Father. As the sheep of God we receive this great sacrificial gift with thanksgiving and acknowledge that what we could not do for ourselves, Jesus does for us. Jesus keeps the law perfectly and yet still dies and conquers our death. *Dear Father, we give you thanks that you sent Jesus to sacrifice Himself on our behalf. Amen.*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-14 The Shepherd leading the way (Festival of Sts. Philip and James)**

Today the church gives thanks for St. Philip and St. James. Philip says to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus responded and said, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father." Jesus shows us that the way to the Father is through Him. We might find ourselves led off into other directions but these words of Jesus draw us back to Him and we are shown the way of everlasting life. To have the Good Shepherd is to have the One who sent the Good Shepherd. Philip and James were led to the Father by the wonderful teaching and actions of Jesus. It is the same for us. *Jesus, show us the Father as You reveal Yourself to us in Your Word. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21-25 The Shepherd of your soul**

Wayward sheep need to be returned to the care of their Shepherd. Jesus, by bearing our sins in His body, creates the way for us straying sheep to be brought back into the fold. Jesus is called by the Shepherd and the Bishop of your soul. All the sheep/shepherd language applies, but also the care of churchly oversight. In His stead, Jesus places an undershepherd and pastor in your life. He is accountable for your soul. Pay him the respect he is due and first and foremost hear the Word, both law and gospel, that he speaks into your ears. He will be speaking about the great Shepherd of your soul. *Dear Jesus, thank You for sending me a pastor and make him faithful to You. Amen.*

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**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16 The seeking Shepherd**

The Good Shepherd knows where to look for the scattered sheep. Jesus goes to the places where their sin has torn them away from the Shepherd. He looks into houses of sin and dens of iniquity. He looks into the hearts of darkness and He finds injured and weak sheep. The Shepherd finds you in your sin and binds you up by His own death and resurrection. He finds you in those places and puts you into the sheepfold, the "mountains of Israel" where He will continually feed you on the holiness of himself. *Good Shepherd, continue to call me back into Your presence. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30 The Shepherd brings life**

The Sheep know the voice of the Shepherd. When you hear the voice of the shepherd you have life. Even the dead will hear the voice of the Shepherd and be given the resurrection of the body to live with the Lord forever. With faith in Jesus, the voice of Jesus gives life. Without faith, the voice of Jesus will be a sound of judgment. On the last day the trumpet will sound and you will be raised to immortality to live in the new creation. This will be life to the fullest! *Holy Spirit, keep me strong in this Christian faith so that I may live forever with You. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20, 21 The Risen Shepherd**

God's people will continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead during this season of Easter. But we also celebrate His resurrection every other day of the year. Without the resurrection of Jesus from the dead our faith would be in vain. You have peace with God the Father through the great Shepherd who laid down his life and was raised. You are equipped with everything good in order to do the will of God. The risen Lord will guide you all of your days. *Risen Shepherd, thank You for shedding Your blood and equipping me for good works. Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 The Good Shepherd**

The Good Shepherd makes you lie down in green pastures. You will have what you need in this earthly life. Even more, He will cause you to feast on the eternal food of His Word and Sacrament. In the Body and Blood of the Shepherd you have the food of eternity. The Body and Blood of Jesus is that foreshadowing of the eternal meal you will eat forever when in the presence of your Shepherd. You will eat and be satisfied and dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Noble Shepherd, provide for me temporally but even more importantly, provide for my eternal days. Amen.*

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