

“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 **John 10:11**  
 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives 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>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>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>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> |

**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

"I am the Good Shepherd." With these words Jesus introduces you to a picture of how He saves, protects, and leads His saints out of the evils of this world to the joys of resurrected life. The sheep are the baptized. The wilderness through which the sheep must travel is the world. The wolves waiting to attack are the demons and their teeth are lies. The hired hands are men driven by selfish gain. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He doesn't run. He laid down His life, between you and the devil's lies, to be devoured by the guilt of your sin. Jesus lives! His voice, the Scriptures, shepherds you through the valley of the shadow of death to the hope of life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-16 An Exceptionally Good Shepherd

We are the wandering sheep gone astray. Jesus is the exceptionally Good Shepherd who knows the sheep, calls us by name, finds us in the wilderness and carries us home, gives us rest in green pastures and refreshment in the cool waters, and more. This Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. This Good Shepherd is also the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Like a silent Lamb He bears our sins and carries our sorrows, and they crush Him. He dies for us, His sheep, the people of His pasture. Can you imagine it? Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I? Indeed, He has! *O Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life to rescue Your people. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 70 Speedy Deliverance

God does not delay in bringing salvation and deliverance to us. It can seem like He does at times. It can seem like God isn't listening or that He doesn't care or (even worse) that He can't do anything about our problems. But none of this is true. God is not slow as some count slowness, but is instead, patient with us. Because He's patient and that can be misinterpreted, David teaches us to pray: "Make haste, O God, to deliver me!" Be speedy, Lord God. Come quickly! And here we learn that the Lord has, in fact, come speedily to us. He's brought us to the waters of baptism, He's given us His Word, He's absolved and fed us. And all this He has done speedily, in order to deliver and help us. *Lord, thank You for delivering and helping me. 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 I Seek Out My Own

The false shepherds make prey of what's been committed to their protection. They don't fight and die to spare the sheep from the wolves. They feed their own bellies and tell the sheep what their itching ears desire. As the sheep get what they want, and not what they need, they grow fat, flop over on the ground, and let the wild beasts gorge themselves. The Lord cannot let this continue. God himself, bearing a real human nature, has come to shepherd His church with His Word. He doesn't serve Himself. He serves His sheep with salvation and eternal life. He leads them often through rough and slippery paths, but He knows what's best. He knows how to deliver from evil. *O Jesus, find me when lost, bind me when injured, and strengthen me when weak. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30 From Life to Death to Life

The day is coming soon when all in the grave will hear the voice of Jesus and be raised. What a tremendous day! What a terrifying day! Following the resurrection is the judgment. But here is another wonderful mystery revealed to us in this text: there is no judgment for the Christian. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (5:24). God be praised! For us wanderers through the valleys and shadows of death, the resurrection of life is coming soon. *O Lord Jesus Christ, You conquered death for us. Come quickly to rescue us from the pangs of death and the grave, and bring us to eternal life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20-21 Our God of War and Peace

"The LORD is a man of war" (Exodus 15:3). He has gone to battle, not against you, but for you. He is your champion, and all your enemies are scattered on the field. Sin: forgiven (Colossians 1:14). Death: disarmed (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). The devil: destroyed (Hebrews 2:14-15). The Lord of war is, for us, the "God of peace" (Hebrews 13:20). He has brought Jesus up from the dead for our justification (Romans 4:25), for our forgiveness, life, and salvation, and in Him we are complete. *We give You thanks, heavenly Father, for the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, whose resurrection gives us grace and peace. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 David Sings a Hymn to Jesus

David sings a hymn to Jesus. That's what I would title this hymn if they let me near the sub-heading machine at the Bible-publisher's office. David, being a prophet, saw Jesus' compassion in forgiving the sins of conscience-stricken men, men like himself. He saw his Lord lead His flock through death, having entered into it Himself, so He might lead them back out to resurrected life where evil can no longer touch them. He saw how Jesus' shepherding Word held forth in and out of season, no matter how demons and false teachers raged. In this church and with this hope, David saw how goodness and mercy follow him and all the saints. This is how they know they shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Shepherd me by Your Word, O Jesus. Amen.*

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