



“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 Hebrews 13:20-21**
 “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

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** TLH 263, LSB 666
O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe Johann M. Altenburg



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.
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.
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.
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.

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 14-20, 2024

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

God in Christ is our Good Shepherd. He makes sure we are fed and watered. But the way He does this is chiefly through His Word. He speaks, and with this speaking, gives us the true bread from heaven and the true and living water. Through this speaking He guards us against the wolves and lions. Through this speaking He raises us from death to life. And through this speaking He brings us into life immortal. This is how our Shepherd cares for us, how He acts as our Good Shepherd.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-16 – A voice that raises you from the dead

Jesus speaks to us. That alone is a profound thing. Jesus, Who created all things by His word speaks to us, His creation. But the word He speaks to us has not lost any of its initial creative power. It still does the same thing it did in the beginning. It creates. Our faith, our hope, our love, all the gifts that our Lord gives to us are created and sustained through this speaking. And this same word creates life. It takes us who are dead in our trespasses and sins, and raises us to new life. It sustains us in that life. And on the last day it will raise us to the life which has no end. Because the words of the Good Shepherd are the very words of eternal life. *Good Shepherd, thank You for speaking Your eternal, life giving words to me. 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 – The example of Christ

When we think about what example Jesus has left for us, we can be tempted to think that we have an example of power, or glory, or authority, or some other thing that we might enjoy. But the only time the scriptures say that we have in Christ an example is here: "because Christ also suffered, leaving you an example, that you might follow in His steps." Christ is our example when He taught us how to suffer. This is so that when (not if) we suffer, we know two things: 1) we are not alone, for we have one another and we also have Jesus Himself, Who experienced the same things; and 2) we know that we will endure and come out of that suffering, because Christ Himself did just that. *Lord, help me to bear my sufferings according to Your example. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16 – God is named Jealous

Of all the names that the Lord has in the scriptures, perhaps this is the strangest, or unnerving. Jealous. Why? Because we are the bride of Christ, He the bridegroom, and any time the bride goes after other grooms, other gods, the groom becomes jealous for His beloved bride. This is why the jealousy of God shows up not only here, but immediately after the first commandment in the decalogue. God has purchased us with His holy and precious blood. We are His beloved creation and holy bride. Of course He would be jealous of us going after another bridegroom. But this is what makes Him good. He cares for us, enough to shed His blood, and enough to continue chasing after us as we stray. *Lord, keep me from going after other gods. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30 – Dead and Living Ears

"Whoever hears my word, and believes Him Who sent me has eternal life... he has passed from death to life." We are born dead. We need to be brought to life from the outside. And this happens through our ears. The devil killed Adam and Eve through their ears, bringing them to listen to his killing words instead of the living words of the living God. But God reverses the work of the devil, amazingly, through the same tools. He uses His word and our ears in order to bring us from death to life. He speaks life into our ears, bringing the whole body and soul to life. And He uses these same words to sustain us in that life and to bring us into the resurrection of eternal life. *Lord, thank You for bring me from death to life by Your word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20, 21 – Equipped with everything good

We can be tempted to think that while we have the main things we need from God, we don't have everything we need. So, we stray and look to other things to fill in the gaps, and those other things end up becoming the most important and we lose sight of the gifts God has given. But, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has given us everything that is good. Everything that we need in order to do His will, to lead Holy Christian lives, to face temptation and the devil, to be forgiven our sin, to enter into eternal life. Everything. We, who are in Christ, truly have no lack. *Lord, help me to see that in You and through You I have all things which are necessary and good. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 – Chasing us through wagon tracks

The 23rd psalm is truly a wonderful text. In it the Lord reminds us of His great care and provision for our lives in the midst of a world corrupted by sin and covered by death. There's a great reality going on in the text we don't always hear. Paths are wagon tracks, the ruts driven into the ground. Follow is pursue, chase after. So the Lord places us into the deep ruts of His righteousness in order to guide our lives. When we wander out of that path, He chases after us, not with wrath and destruction, but with His goodness and mercy. He then places us back into the wagon tracks, where we are safe and are brought, finally, to the eternal kingdom. *Lord, thank You for protecting me with Your righteousness, and pursuing me when I stray. Amen.*

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