

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK 1 Peter 2:2, Psalm 81:1, 7, 10, 16

As newborn babes, Alle- | luia,*
desire the pure milk of the Word. Alleluia. Alle- | luia.
Sing aloud to | God our strength;*
make a joyful shout to the God of | Jacob.
You called in trouble, and I de- | livered you;*
I answered you in the secret place of | thunder.
I am the | Lord your God,*
who brought you out of the land of | Egypt;
open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.*
With honey from the rock I would have sa- | tisfied you.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 70:1
Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord!

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Almighty and merciful God, as You have brought us to celebrate the festival of the Lord's resurrection, cause us by Your grace to bring forth the fruits thereof in our life and conduct; 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
I Am Content! My Jesus Liveth Still TLH 196, LSB 468
Johann J. Möller



1. I am content! My Jesus liveth still,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He hath fulfilled the Law of God for me,
God's wrath He hath appeased.
Since He in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content! I am content!

2. I am content! My Jesus is my Head;
His member I will be.
He bowed His head when on the cross He
died

With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection
For me, too, by His resurrection.
I am content! I am content!

5. I am content! Lord, draw me unto Thee
And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be
With Thee, my living Head.
The fetters of my body sever,
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!



“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

What is the task of a shepherd? A shepherd feeds, tends, and teaches. A shepherd rebukes, corrects, and exhorts. A shepherd dies for the sheep. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He is good because He is God in the flesh. Yet, He does not keep this goodness to Himself. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep (John 10:11). That is the selfless thing to do. In this way God loves the world, in that He gave His only-begotten Son to be the sacrifice for the sin of the world. We may have moments when we sacrifice ourselves for the benefit of others, but only Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has accomplished the ultimate sacrifice on the cross of His death. Jesus shepherds the church, which is His body, people who have faith in Him.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-16: Knowing the Sheep

I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own (John 10:14). It is not the other way around. We do not know Jesus and therefore, He knows us. First, we must be known by Him, in order that we may know Him. God makes Himself known to us. We know that there is a God from the existence of the world and from the testimony of our conscience (both natural knowledge of God). We only know God for our salvation from the Holy Scriptures. Through this revealed knowledge, we know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the One who laid down His life for the sheep. Whoever hears His voice (John 10:16) and believes in Him is in His flock...His church. *Good Shepherd, keep Your voice in our hearts and minds. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 70: Turning Back Our Adversaries

God does protect His own...those who belong to His flock, His church. He did it with the children of Israel when they were in Egypt, and He does it with us. David prays, *Let them be turned back because of their shame, who say, 'Aha, aha!'* The enemies of God's people are also the enemies of God. By faith, we seek Him who was promised of old, and who has died on the accursed tree for our sins. We can indeed rejoice and be glad in Him. We love His salvation (v. 4), and we say, *Let God be magnified (v. 4).* We still pray for His deliverance to continue among us, so that those who seek our life would be *ashamed and confounded (v. 2).* Not only can God do this, but He does. *God, continue delivering us by Your word of salvation. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21-25: The Shepherd of our Souls

We are called to be in submission to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. Submission is an evil word to the world. To the world, submission equals weakness. But the Scripture teaches that submission is a godly attribute. In great strength, Jesus commended Himself to His Father, the Righteous Judge, who forsook His Son on the cross, in order that He would die for the sin of the world. He bore our sins in His own body on the tree (v. 24), so that we who have died to sin, would live for righteousness (v. 24). Jesus' righteousness becomes our righteousness of faith. We submit to those in authority over us, as those submitting to Jesus, the Shepherd of our souls. *Christ, keep us in humble submission to our Father, and to other earthly authorities. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11-16: Searching for His Sheep

One thing that is always true of the Lord, is that He seeks out His sheep. Gathering from the peoples and from the countries (v. 13), the Lord will feed them in good pasture (v. 14). Their food is on the high mountains of Israel (v. 14). Our food, likewise, comes from our Shepherd, the One who seeks the scattered from among the peoples, separating us from the multitude of unbelievers. The fat and the strong will be destroyed, fed in judgment (v. 16). They who trust in their own strength will be weak, and they who trust in the Lord will be strong, for their food is from Him who gave His life as the ransom price, redeeming them from death. *Lord God, seek us and keep us as Your flock, who are fed with the good food of Your Son. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:22-30: Judgment to the Shepherd

A shepherd exercises judgment according to the authority given him. If he judges otherwise, his judgment is not true. Jesus' authority comes from His Father, and this is how our Shepherd judges. *For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son... (John 5:22).* Thus, Jesus acknowledges the One from whom this authority comes. *I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me (John 5:30).* This is our righteous Shepherd and Judge, and those who hear the voice of the Son of God will live (v. 25), for He died on the cross for our sin. *Father, keep with Your Son the righteous judgment that gives us life from the grave. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20-21: Our Shepherd Through Blood

There is life in the blood. The Lamb of God took away the sin of the world by the shedding of His blood. This is the everlasting covenant (Hebrews 13:20). Jesus is our Shepherd by shedding His blood on the cross, and by giving us that blood to drink for our forgiveness and life. We have peace with God through this great Shepherd of the sheep, who purchased us from sin, death, and hell, by His blood. Nothing perishable would do; not silver; not gold. His blood cleanses our consciences from dead works to do good works according to His will, which are pleasing in His sight. Without His sacrifice we are dead, but by His sacrifice we live through faith in the blood of the covenant. *God, keep us in Your Son's everlasting blood-covenant. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23: Shepherd of His People

There is death all around us. Death is in our families. Death is on television, radio, and on the computer screen. Death may seem like it is part of life, but it is not. Death is the enemy of life, but not its equal and opposing power, anymore than Satan is the equal and opposing power of God. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me (Psalm 23:4).* We have comfort from the Lord our Shepherd, who feeds us and leads us in the paths of righteousness...for the sake of His name (v. 3). The Lord, who gave Himself upon the altar of the cross, gives us life, not death. *Lord, continue to shepherd us into the green pastures of Your righteousness. Amen.*

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